DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 194 706 CE 026 496

AUTHOR Rice, Gail: Nowack, Linda
TITLE Safe Driving in Illinois. A Manual to Accompany the Illinois Rules of the Road.
INSTITUTION Urbana Adult Education Center, Ill.
SPONS AGENCY Illinois State Office of Education, Springfield. Div. of Adult Vocational and Technical Education.
PUB DATE Jan 78
NOTE 159p.
AVAILABLE FROM Curriculum Publications Clearinghouse, Horrabin Hall, Room 46, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL 61455 ($1.50)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC07 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Accident Prevention: *Driver Education: *Laws: Safety Education: Secondary Education: *Traffic Accidents: *Traffic Safety
IDENTIFIERS Driver Licensing: Illinois: Illinois Rules of the Road

ABSTRACT

Designed to accompany and supplement the Illinois Rules of the Road manual, this book is intended to better prepare future drivers for the written test for the instruction permit or driver's license. It includes many pictures and shows and describes driving situations a driver will probably face when behind the wheel. Parts dealing with important legal information are referenced to Rules of the Road and follow the language of the law closely. These topics are covered: Getting Your Driver's Permit and License: Traffic Signs: Regulatory Signs: Regulatory Signs--Speed Signs: Warning Signs: Construction Warning Signs: Guide Signs: Guide Signs--Route Markers: Traffic Signal Lights: Pavement Markings: Traffic Laws--Yielding the Right of Way: Turning: Passing: Speed: Other Traffic Rules: Special Stops: Stopping, Standing, or Parking: Expressway Driving: Special Conditions: You and the Motorcyclist and Moped Rider: You and the Bicycle Rider: Accidents and How to Prevent Them (Defensive Driving, Preventing Accidents, If You Are Involved in An Accident): and Further On Down the Road. (YLB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED194706

SAFE DRIVING IN ILLINOIS

A Manual to Accompany the Illinois Rules of the Road

Written by

Gail Rice and Linda Nowack

Urbana Adult Education Center

January, 1978

CE 026 496

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

C. Reisinger

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

The contents of this booklet were developed through a special project funded by the Adult and Continuing Education Section, Illinois Office of Education, under provisions of Section 10-22.20 of The School Code of Illinois. As such, these materials are public property and may not be copyrighted or otherwise reproduced for commercial purposes.

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to acknowledge the following people for their help and assistance: Mr. Art Spiegel, Mr. Gary March, and Ms. Jane Kenney, Office of the Secretary of State; Mr. Larry Gregg, Illinois Department of Transportation; and Mr. Tom Alexander, Illinois Office of Education. The authors also appreciate the cooperation of several other people in these offices. Finally, the authors would like to especially acknowledge Bill Harrison for the diagrams and drawings in this book.

As a product of a special project grant under provisions of Section 10-22.20 of The School Code of Illinois, the content of this booklet includes facts and opinions presented by the project staff. These facts and opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Illinois Office of Education and no specific endorsement should be inferred.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
To the Reader	1
Getting Your Driver's Permit and License	3
Traffic Signs	13
Regulatory Signs	19
Regulatory Signs--Speed Signs	33
Warning Signs	36
Construction Warning Signs	57
Guide Signs	61
Guide Signs--Route Markers	67
Traffic Signal Lights	70
Pavement Markings	81
Traffic Laws--Yielding the Right-of-Way	94
Turning	105
Passing	108
Speed	114
Other Traffic Rules	120
Special Stops	122
Stopping, Standing, or Parking	126
Expressway Driving	129
Special Conditions	136
You and the Motorcyclist and Moped Rider	144
You and the Bicycle Rider	146
Accidents and How to Prevent Them	
Defensive Driving	147
Preventing Accidents	149
If You Are Involved in An Accident	152
Further On Down the Road	155

TO THE READER

We have tried to write a book that will better help you prepare for the written test for your instruction permit or driver's license. We hope it is easier to read than many driving books.

We have included many pictures in our book. And in many places we show or describe driving situations you will probably face when you are behind-the-wheel. In these situations we show you traffic signs and tell you the rules to follow in order to be a safe driver.

We want you to use our book along with the Rules of the Road manual. (The newest Rules of the Road manual came out in the winter of 1978.) This is especially important for the parts of our book which deal with important legal information. These parts have been marked for you to tell you when to refer to the Rules of the Road. You should study the information referred to very carefully.

We should point out that some of these parts of our book which refer to the Rules of the Road are more difficult to read than other parts. This is because we had to be especially careful to follow the language of the law closely.

In many cases our book has more details than the Rules of the Road. You do not have to know all of the details for the written test. But you should look at the study questions at the end of each chapter of the Rules of the Road. These questions will give you an idea of what things are most important to know when you go to take your written test.

As you study our book and the Rules of the Road, you may have questions about driving laws. And you may wonder about laws that change. To find answers to your questions and to keep up on changes in the laws, you might call this toll-free number: 800-252-8980.

As you read our book, watch for the car with the stripes or

diagonal lines on it in the pictures. Usually, this car will be the one we are talking about in the text. Sometimes the driver of this car will be doing the right thing and sometimes not. Sometimes the driver will be yielding and sometimes not. But in the section "Yielding the Right-of-Way," the driver of the striped car is always the one who must yield the right-of-way.

Because this book is for both men and women drivers, we have deliberately avoided referring to the driver as only a "he" throughout this book. Instead, we use his/her, him/her, and (s)he.

We would appreciate your comments and suggestions for ways to improve this book. You can write us at the Urbana Adult Education Area Center, 610 E. Park Street, Champaign, Illinois, 61820.

Gail Rice and Linda Nowack

GETTING YOUR DRIVER'S PERMIT AND LICENSE

If you want to drive in Illinois, you must have a driver's license or instruction permit. And you must carry that license or permit with you when you drive.

Many people learn about signs, driving laws, and safety rules in high school. Everyone between the ages of 15 and 20 may learn these things free even if (s)he is not going to a public school.

Some junior colleges and high schools also have classes for adults who want to learn about driving. Call your local high school or the office of the school superintendent for information about classes in your area.

The Instruction Permit

Before you get behind the wheel and practice driving, you must get an instruction permit. You may get an instruction permit at any driver's license examination (testing) station. To find the nearest one to you, look in the phone book under Illinois, State of. You will find the driver's license station listed under the Secretary of State's Office.

When you get your permit, you may only drive at certain times.

If you are 15, 16, or 17 years old, you may apply for an instruction permit if you are taking a driver's education class. This class must be approved by the State Superintendent of Education. It may be given by a public or private school or by a driving school.

At age 15, 16, or 17, you may only drive with your driving teacher, your mother or father, your guardian, or a person who is acting as a parent to you sitting beside you in the car. (S)he must have a driver's license of at least the same classification as the one you are trying to get (see the section on Classification of Licenses for more information). (S)he must also have been driving for at least one year.

After you finish the driving course, you may drive only if you have someone next to you in the car. Again, (s)he must have a driver's license of at least the same classification and must have been driving for one year or more.

If you are 18 years old or older, you may apply for the permit even if you are not taking a driving course. The permit will let you drive for one year if you have somebody seated beside you who has a driver's license of at least the same classification. This person must also have one year of driving experience.

Motor Driven Cycles and Motorcycles

If you want to drive a motor driven cycle or a motorcycle, you must have a special permit. You may drive the motor driven cycle or motorcycle only during daylight hours with this permit, and you must be directly supervised by a person who has a license for a motor driven cycle or motorcycle.

You must be 16 years old or more to get an instruction permit for a motor driven cycle. Your instructor (or supervisor) must have a license for either a motor driven cycle or a motorcycle.

You must be 18 years old or more to get an instruction permit for a motorcycle. Your instructor must have a motorcycle license.

To get any kind of permit, you must pass two tests:
--highway signs and traffic laws;
--vision (how well you can see).

Driver's License Age Restrictions (Rules) and Curfew Restrictions

You must be 18 years old or older to get a driver's license, with one exception. You may get a driver's license if you are 16 or 17, but only if you:

1. Pass an approved driver's education course;
2. Pass the Driver's License Examination (Test); and
3. Have the written consent (permission) of your father, mother, or guardian, unless you are married.

But if you are under 17, remember that there are some other rules you must follow.

It is against the law for you to be at any public assembly (meeting, show, etc.), building, place, street, or highway during these times: (1) Between Midnight and 6:00 A.M. on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and (2) Between 11:00 in the evening and 6:00 the next morning the rest of the week. This law does not apply if you are with a parent, guardian, or responsible person over age 18, if your parents approve. Or if you are working at a job that the State says is all right for you to do, then you may also be out during those times.

The law also says that if you are less than 18 years old, the State will not give you a driver's license to transport people or property for pay. And the law says that if you are under 21, or if you have had less than 1 year of driving experience, you cannot (1) drive larger vehicles to transport people for pay, or (2) transport children to or from any school, day camp, summer school, or nursery school.

People Who Do Not Need an Illinois Driver's License

There are some people who do not need to get an Illinois driver's license before driving in Illinois:

1. If you are a new resident of Illinois, and if you have a valid and current (up-to-date) driver's license from another state or country, you may drive, using that license, for the first 90 days you live in Illinois. After that, you must get an Illinois license to drive here.

2. If you are not a resident of Illinois, you may drive in Illinois while you are here. But you must have a valid license from your home state or country.
3. If you are a student at a college or university in Illinois, but you are not a resident, you may drive in Illinois with a license from your home state. Your husband or wife and your children may also drive with a license from your home state.
4. If you are on active duty in the military and have a valid license from your home state, then you do not have to get an Illinois license. This is true for your wife or husband and your children, too.
5. If you are on active duty and are an Illinois resident and you are just coming back after being overseas, you may drive for 45 days before you must get an Illinois license.
6. If you are in the military or if you work for the U.S. Government you do not need an Illinois license to drive a vehicle that is owned by the government. This is only true if you are doing government work while you are driving.
7. If you are driving certain kinds of farm machinery close to your home farm buildings for a short while only, you do not need an Illinois license to drive such machinery.

If you do not fit into one of these groups, then you will have to get an Illinois driver's license if you want to drive in Illinois.

Getting Your Illinois Driver's License

You must do the following six things before you can get an Illinois driver's license:

1. You must be a resident of Illinois or you must be about to become a resident.
2. You must have proof of your address and your date of birth.
3. You must have some form of identification. This means that you must have something like a credit card, bank book, marriage license, or something else to prove that you are who you say you are.
4. You must give your Social Security Number. If you do not have

one, you can get one from your local Social Security Office before you apply for your license.

5. You must turn in all other driver's licenses from other states if you have any. You must turn them in to the Secretary of State. You can do this at the driver's license testing station.

6. You must pass the driver's license test within 12 months after you apply. You will have three chances that year to take the test. You may not drive until this has been done.

When you first apply for your instruction permit, you will have to pay $8.00. You will not be charged again for your first license. Look on your license for the date it expires. Each time you renew your driver's license, it costs $8.00. People who are 69 years old or older only have to pay $4.00. To get another copy of your license, to change your name or address on your license, or to correct a mistake on your license will cost you $3.00. You must also pay $3.00 to have another classification added to your license. (See the section Classification of Licenses.)

New Things on Your Illinois License

Illinois is now issuing licenses with the drivers' pictures on them. All drivers getting a license or renewing their license now will have their picture taken and be given their new picture licenses. If you do not have a picture license now, you won't have to get one until you renew your license. But if you want a picture license now, you can pay $3.00 and get one. Also, for $4.00 anyone can get a photo identification card that is not a license.

If you are an organ gift donor in Illinois, you can get a special sticker for your driver's license. This sticker goes on the upper right corner of the back of your license. It says you are carrying an Anatomical Gift Card which gives instructions about organs you wish to donate in case of death. You can get these stickers from many places. If you carry an Emergency Medical Information Card in your wallet, you can also place a sticker on the back of your

license meaning this. You can get these cards and stickers at the drivers license station. You may also write your blood type and Rh factor on the back of your license.

Classification of Licenses

Most people get a driver's license to drive a car (automobile). But there are 6 classifications or types of licenses. With each different type of license, you are allowed to drive different vehicles.

Class A-- This is the most common type of license. It is for cars, mopeds, and small trucks which weigh less than 8,000 pounds. This does not allow you to drive a "truck tractor in combination with semitrailer, semitrailer and one or more trailers, or in combination with a stinger-steered semitrailer; or any motorcycle or motor driven cycle."

Class B-- This is for larger trucks or vehicles with a registered gross weight of 16,000 pounds or less except for a "truck tractor in combination with semitrailer, semitrailer and one or more trailers; or in combination with a stinger-steered semitrailer; or any motorcycle or motor driven cycle."

Class C-- For any motor vehicle except "a truck tractor in combination with semitrailer, semitrailer and one or more trailers; or in combination with a stinger-steered semitrailer; or any motorcycle or motor driven cycle."

Class D-- For any motor vehicle except motorcycles and motor driven cycles.

Class L-- For any motor driven cycle (less than 150 cc's), including a moped.

Class M-- For any motorcycle or motor driven cycle.

You may have a license with more than one classification. For example, a license with classifications A and M means that you may drive automobiles or motorcycles.

The Driver Examination

To get your license you must pass three tests:
1. A written test on highway signs, traffic signals, pavement markings, traffic laws, safety rules, and vehicle equipment.
2. A vision test to find out how well you can see.
3. A behind-the-wheel driving test.

If you are getting an instruction permit, you will take the first 2 tests. Then, when you have your permit, you will take your behind-the-wheel test to get your driver's license. Some people may take all 3 tests together to get their license.

The Written Test

In this test, you will be tested to see if you can tell what a sign is by its shape, color, or the symbol on it. You will also have to know what traffic signals and pavement markings mean. There will be questions about safety rules, traffic laws, preventing accidents, and motor vehicle equipment which the law says you must have.

The test will ask a question and give you 3 or 4 choices. You must pick out the best answer. If you have trouble reading the test, you may make special arrangements to have the test read to you. In some areas, you may be able to take the test written in another language, such as Spanish.

The Vision Test

You will be tested to tell whether or not you can see well enough to drive safely. If the test shows you need glasses or contact lenses, then you will only be able to drive when you have them on. The worst vision you can have and still drive is 20/40. If you have 20/70 vision, you may be able to get a license with a restriction to drive only during the daytime.

The Behind-the-Wheel Test

You may have to drive over a test route so the Driver's License Examiner can see if you have all the skills you need to drive a vehicle safely. You will be tested on such things as starting, stopping, backing, turning, driving in the proper lane, and obeying signs and signals. If you break any laws, you will fail the test, even if you do everything else well.

Only the Drivers Facility Representative (the examiner) will be allowed to be with you during the test. If you bring your children along when you go for the test, you must also bring someone to watch them while you are taking the test.

You must have a vehicle to take the test in. It must be the same type of vehicle as the classification you are trying to get. The vehicle must also have the proper license and equipment.

If you do not already have a legal license or permit, the vehicle you use must be driven to the testing station by someone with a valid license.

These are some of the things you will have to do for the test:

Starting--Check your parking brake, mirrors, position of the seat, and other controls. Do this before you move the car.
Backing--Drive backwards for about 50 feet. Go slowly and as smoothly as possible. Turn your head to the right to watch behind you.
Turnabout--Here you must turn around by turning into an alley on the left side of the street. Back out of the alley and stay on your side of the center of the street. Watch out for other traffic.
Park Uphill--Signal and pull over to the side of the road where you want to park. Stop the vehicle along the side of the road. If there is a curb, turn your wheels away from the curb and let the vehicle roll back against the curb. Set the parking brake or put the gear selector in "Park." If there is no curb, or a very low one,

turn your wheels toward the side of the road. Then set the brake or put the car in "Park." If you do these things, even if your car rolls backwards, it will not roll into traffic.

Start Uphill--Release the brake, give the proper signal, and look behind you. When it is safe, move out into the street slowly.

Park Downhill--Again, signal, pull over to the side of the road, and stop. Turn your wheels toward the curb. If there is a curb, let the vehicle roll against it. Then set the parking brake or put the car in "Park." Whether or not there is a curb, this will keep the vehicle from rolling into traffic.

Start Downhill--Release the parking brake and back up a few feet to free the wheels. Turn the wheels away from the curb, give the proper signal, look back to check traffic, and move into the street slowly when it is safe.

Quick Stop--This is done in special areas in the City of Chicago only. You must stop as quickly and safely as you can when the examiner tells you to do so.

Bay Turnabout--This is also only done in special areas in Chicago. You must turn your car around in an area called a bay. You may back up three different times to do this.

Other Tested Areas--The examiner will also grade you on turning; seeing and obeying traffic lights, stop signs, and other signs and signals; signalling; yielding the right-of-way; obeying lane markings; coming to intersections; using your mirrors; and controlling the vehicle.

Other Questions

You will also have to answer questions about your health. You will be asked whether you have ever had or if you now have any illness, disease, physical disability, or mental disability which might affect your driving. If you have had any of these, or if you have them when you take the test, it is a good idea to have a letter from your doctor stating that you are well enough to drive. If you have an illness such as epilepsy that might cause you to unexpectedly

lose consciousness, then you and your doctor will also need to fill out an Agreement Form. This form is available at the drivers license examination station.

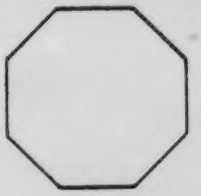
You will be asked if you have a vision problem, and if you need glasses or contact lenses to drive.

Finally, you will be asked if your license is suspended, revoked, cancelled or refused in Illinois or any other state. And you will be asked if your license is being held in court in lieu of bail.

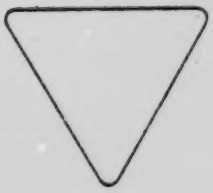
The sections that follow will tell you many things you will want to know about safe driving. They will also tell you the special rules for driving in the state of Illinois.

TRAFFIC SIGNS

There are many signs you must know when you drive. The color and shape of a sign tells you a lot. Look at the shapes and colors of these signs:



This sign has 8 sides. It always means <u>stop</u>. Stop signs are red with white letters.



This sign has 3 sides. It points down. It always means <u>yield</u>.

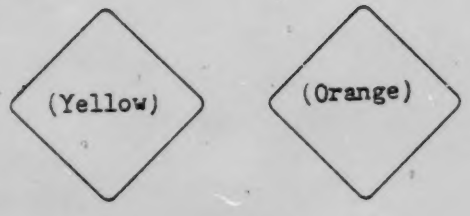
Yield signs tell you to <u>yield the right-of-way</u>. You may have to yield when you and someone else want the same space at the same time. When you yield, you give up the right to go first. You yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic. <u>Pedestrians</u> are people walking. Other traffic is cars, trucks. motorcycles, bicycles, and other things on the road.

(old sign)

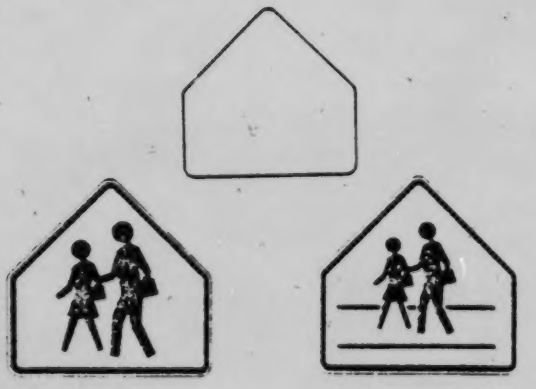
Yield signs are red and white. You may see some old yield signs. The old signs were yellow with black letters.

This round sign always means railroad crossing ahead. It means a railroad track will cross the street you are on. Railroad crossing signs are yellow and black.

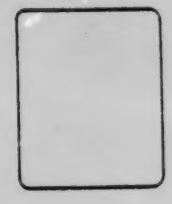
This sign looks like a diamond. It always means warning. Warning signs tell you what to expect. They tell you what may be coming up ahead, or what to look out for. They warn you about things that could be dangerous.



Most warning signs are yellow and black. But some warning signs are orange and black. The orange signs warn you about construction (building things) and repairs (fixing things).

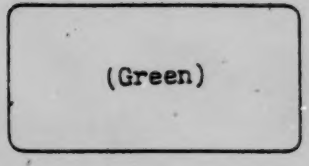


These signs have 5 sides. They are shaped like an old school house. They mean school zone or school crossing. The signs are yellow and black. They show two children, and they tell you a school is near. If the children are walking in a crosswalk, you are at a school crossing.

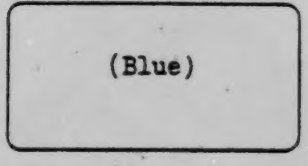


These signs have 4 sides. The long way is usually up and down. They are called regulatory signs. To regulate means to control or direct. So these signs tell you what to do. These signs are white and black.

These signs have 4 sides. The long way is usually across. There are many of these guide signs to help you.



Some guide signs tell you where you are and how to get where you are going. They may also tell you which way to go, or how far you have to go. These guide signs are green.



Other guide signs may tell you where to find services. You can find services like rest areas, telephones, gas stations, camping areas, eating places, and places to stay (lodging). These guide signs are blue.

You can see that the shape of a sign tells you a lot about the sign. The color of a sign tells you about the sign, too. Look at these colors and what they mean:

Red

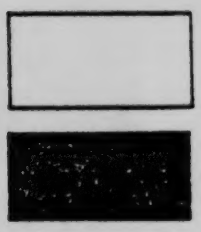
Red is used for stop, yield, do not enter, or wrong way signs.

Yellow

Yellow is used for most warning signs, like these:

Orange

Some warning signs are orange. Orange is used to warn you about construction or repair work.

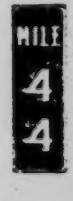


White and black are used for regulatory signs. They tell you what to do.

Many route markers are also black and white.

Green

Green is used for guide signs that tell you where you are, which way to go, and how far to go.



Blue

Blue is used for guide signs that tell you about services. They point out services like telephones, rest areas, gas stations, camping and picnic areas, hospitals, eating places, and places to stay.

Brown

Brown is used for parks and recreation (play) areas.

(In some states, recreation signs may have this shape.)

Now you can study the signs more closely and see how they are used. Traffic signs are regulatory signs, warning signs, or guide signs.

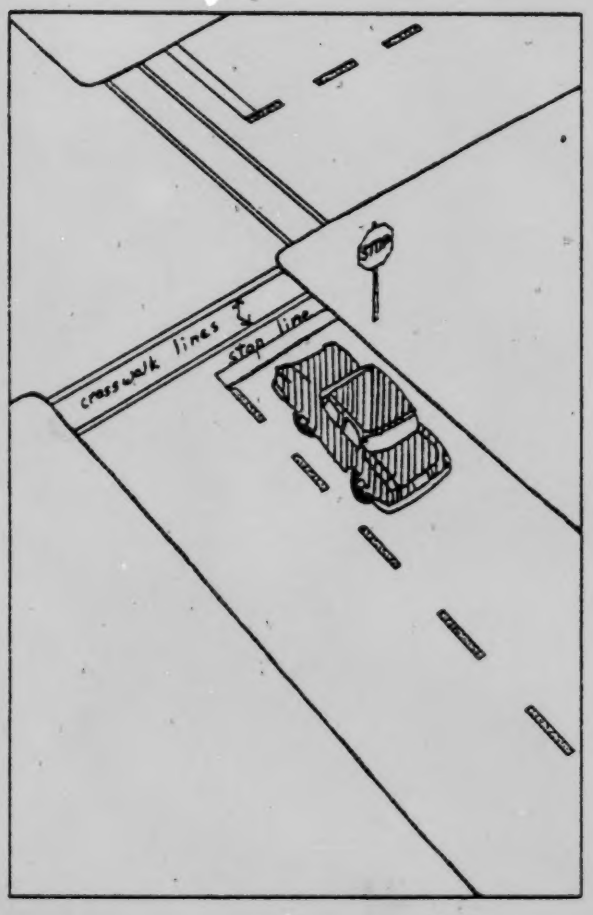
REGULATORY SIGNS

Remember that regulatory signs tell you what to do.

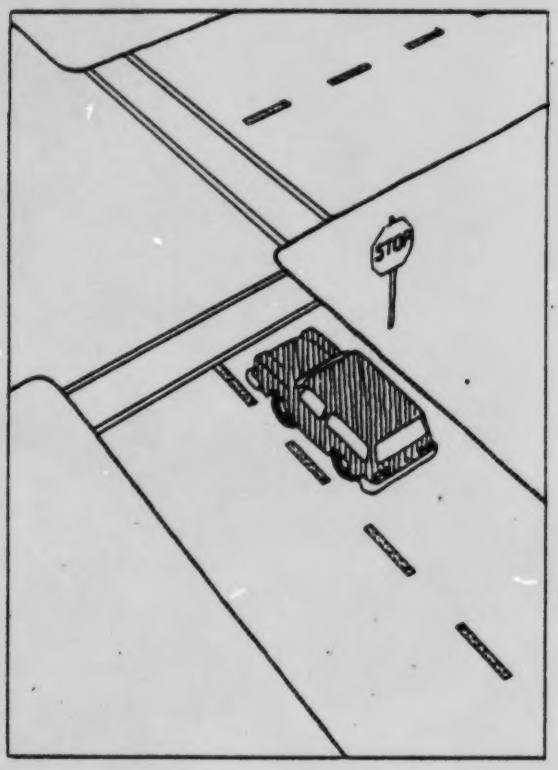
A stop sign has 8 sides. It is red with white letters.

When you see a stop sign, you cannot just slow down. You must make a full stop.

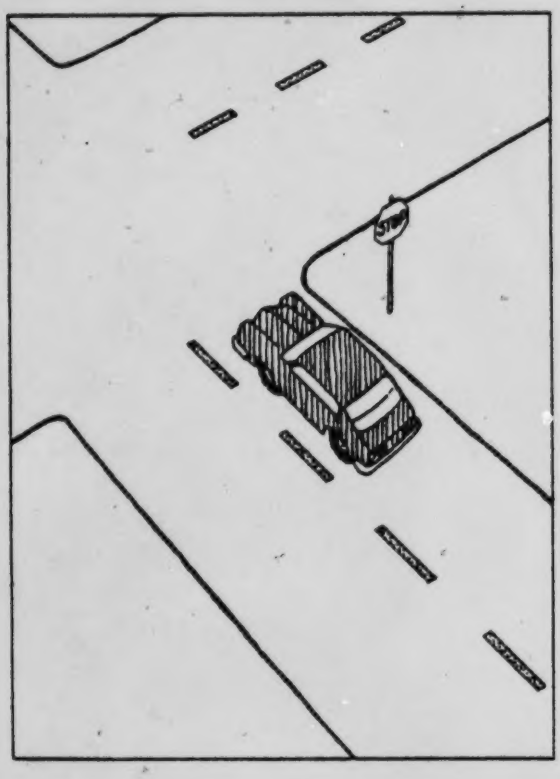
When you come up to a stop sign at an intersection, where do you stop? (An intersection is where 2 or more streets come together.)



If there is a white stop line, stop at the stop line before entering (driving into) the intersection.



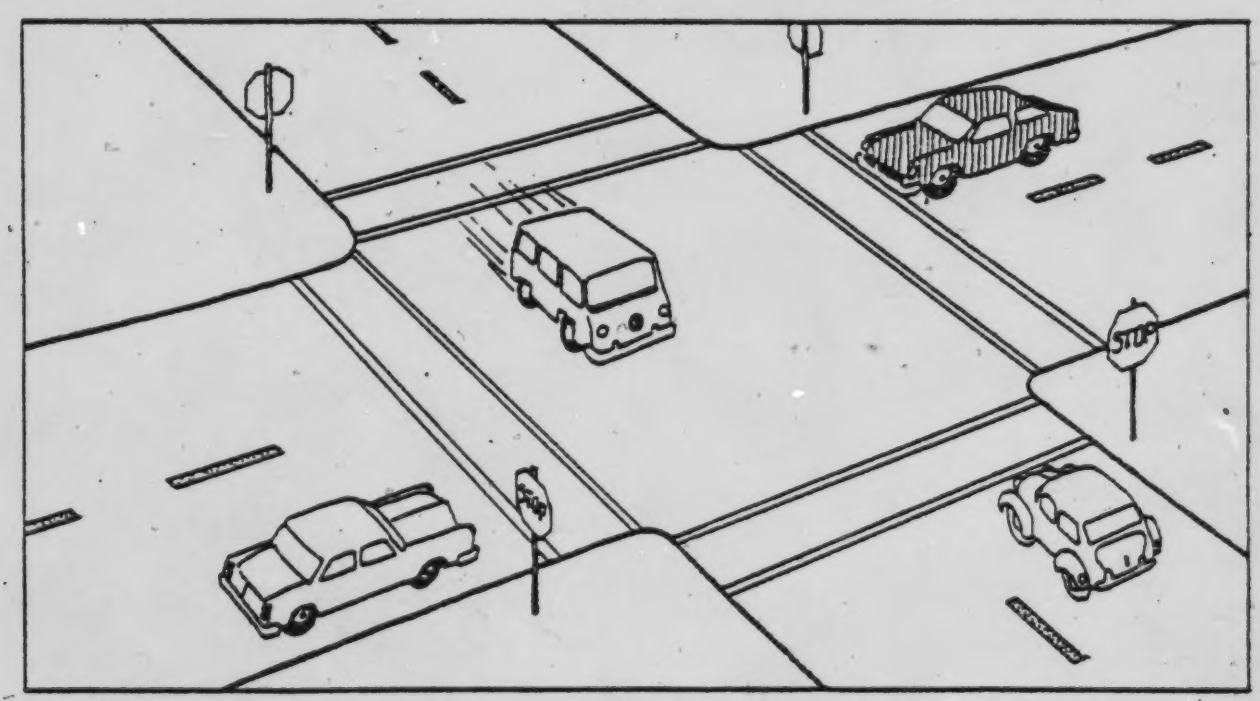
Here there are crosswalk lines, but there is no stop line. Stop behind the crosswalk before entering the crosswalk.



If there is no stop line or crosswalk, stop before entering the intersection where you can best see the traffic.

After you stop at a stop sign, you must not start again until it is safe to go. You have to give the right-of-way to all traffic and pedestrians near you. To give the right-of-way means to let the other person go first. Many times it is dangerous for you and someone else to go at the same time. So you let traffic and pedestrians go before you go.

Sometimes you may see a stop sign like this. That means that there are four stop signs at the intersection. Traffic from all directions must stop. You may see signs for "3-way" stops or "5-way" stops at some intersections.



At a 4-way stop, the first driver to stop is the first driver to go. Everyone takes his turn. But if another driver goes when it is your turn to go, <u>give</u> him the right-of-way. Never <u>take</u> the right-of-way. <u>Give up</u> the right-of-way even if the other driver is wrong. It is better to give up the right-of-way than to have an accident.

(old sign)

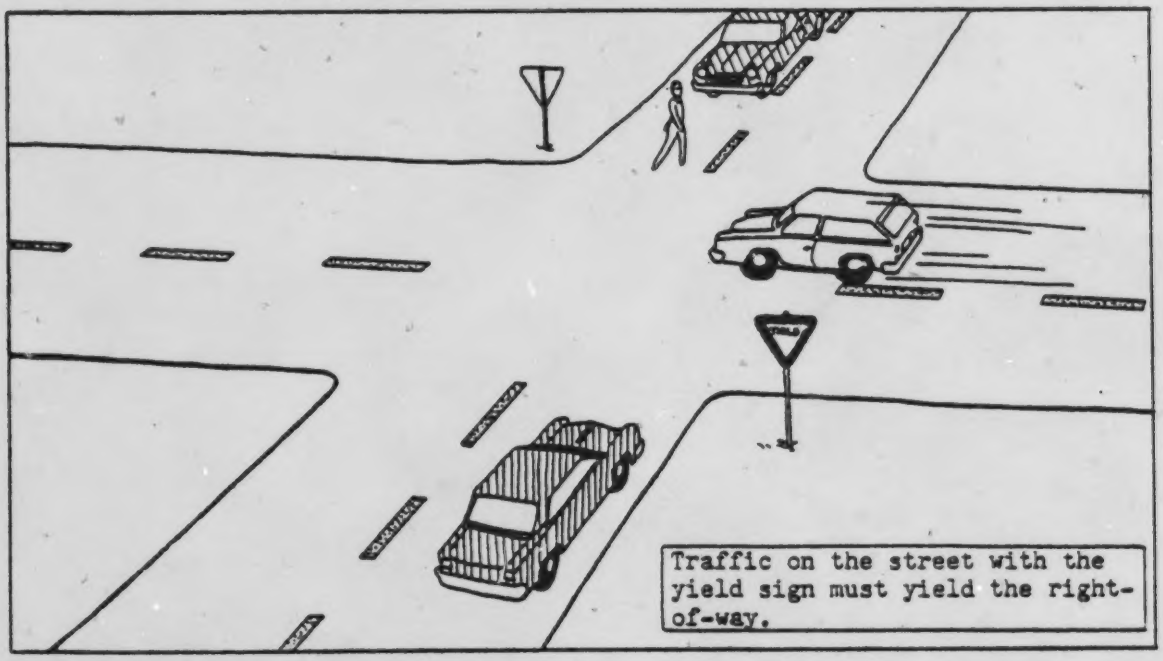
A yield sign has 3 sides. Yield signs are red and white. (The old yield signs were yellow with black letters.)

To yield means to give the right-of-way to all traffic (including pedestrians) near you. You must let traffic go before you go if you can't both go at the same time.

When you come to a yield sign, slow down to a speed that is safe. Be ready to stop if you have to. Check to see if there is traffic near you. If there is none, you don't have to stop. But if there is traffic coming and you can't both go, you stop and yield the right-of-way. Stop in the same place as you would if a stop sign were there. Wait until it is safe to go again.

Where do you see yield signs?

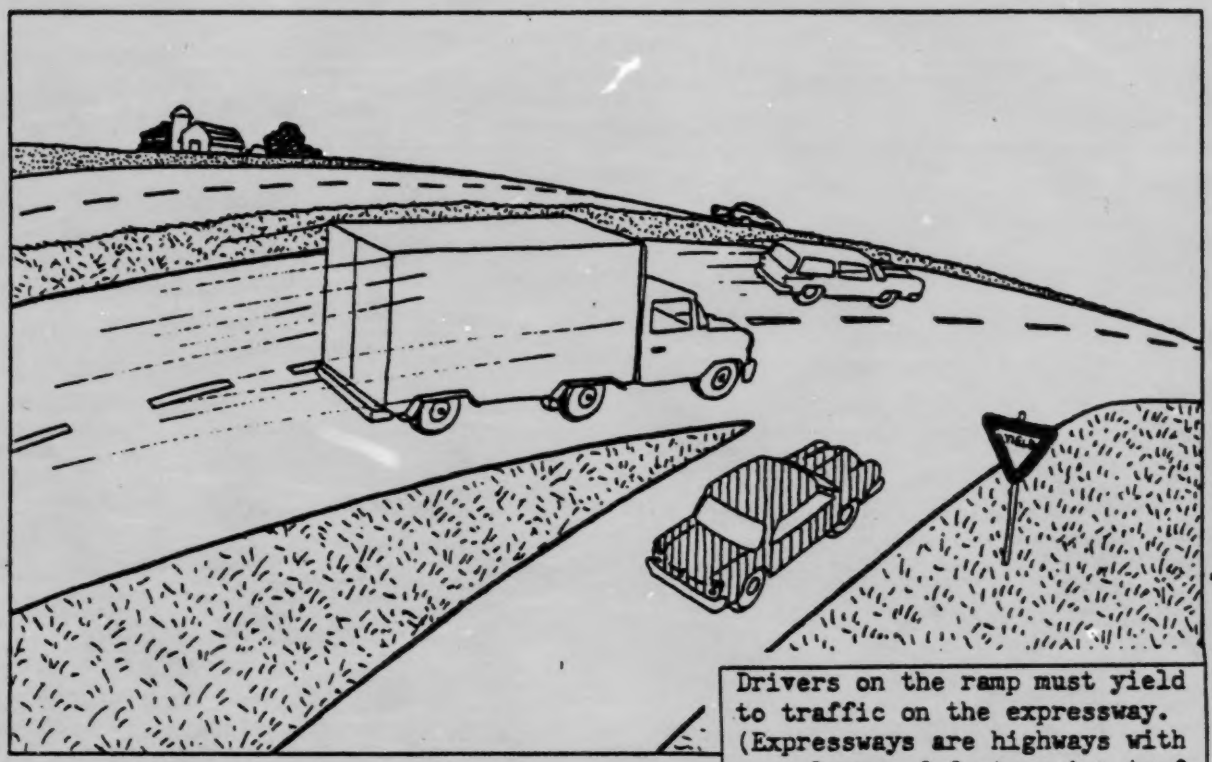
You often see yield signs at intersections where one street is busier than the other. The street that is not as busy usually has the yield sign.



Traffic on the street with the yield sign must yield the right-of-way.

You may also see yield signs when a smaller road joins a bigger road.

Sometimes you see yield signs on ramps (or roads) to get on expressways. They are used if there is no extra lane for drivers to speed up and join with the expressway traffic.



Drivers on the ramp must yield to traffic on the expressway. (Expressways are highways with many lanes of fast-moving traffic. Traffic going opposite ways is usually separated.)

Now look at these regulatory signs.

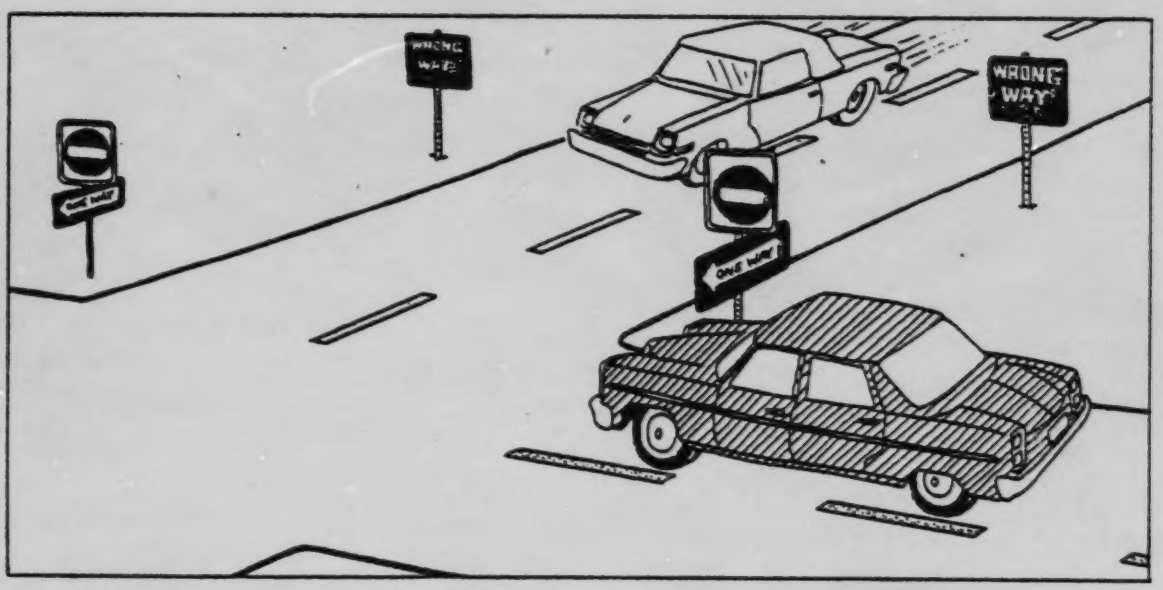
You see this sign at streets and roads that you cannot enter. Or you see it at places where you must not go in.

Sometimes you may see an older "Do Not Enter" sign that looks like this.

The "Do Not Enter" sign may be at one-way streets. It may be at driveways or alleys. It may be in parking lots at some aisles. And it may be at ramps off an expressway (exit ramps). At all of these places, the traffic is going one way only. You see the sign if you are trying to go the wrong way.

If you miss the "Do Not Enter" sign and go the wrong way, you may see this sign a short way ahead. This sign also warns you that you are going the wrong way.

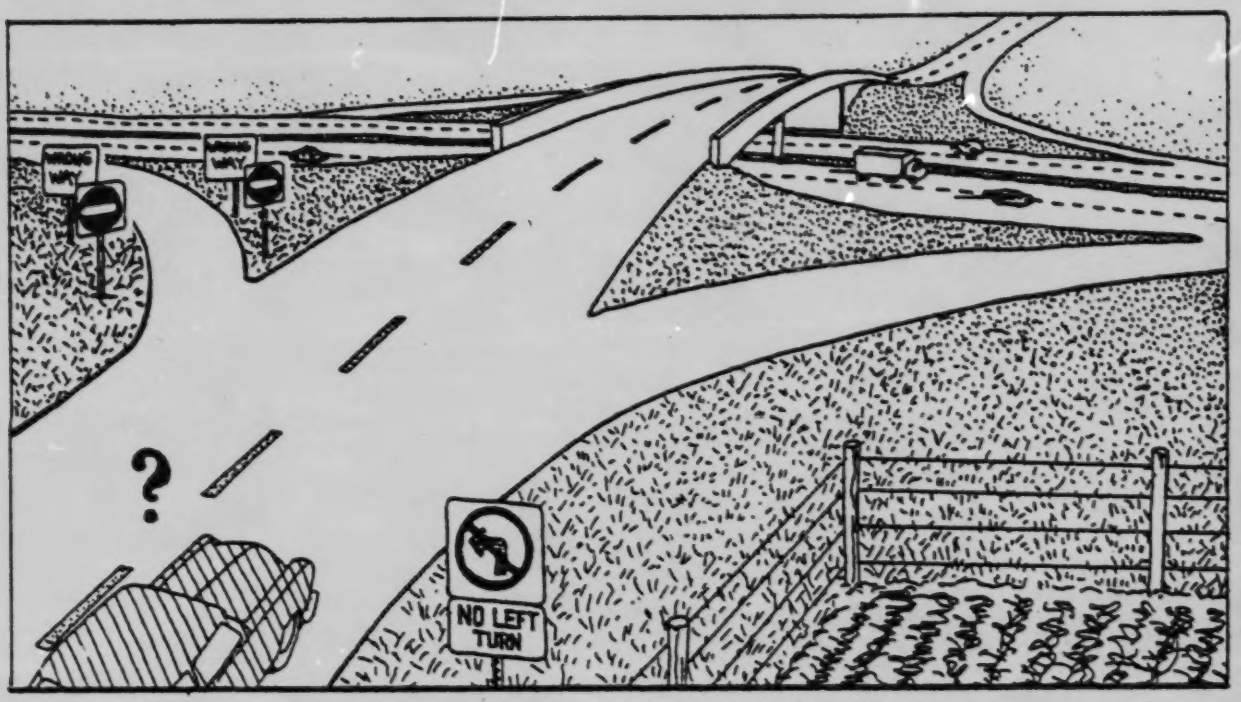
You see the signs if you are turning the wrong way onto a one-way street.



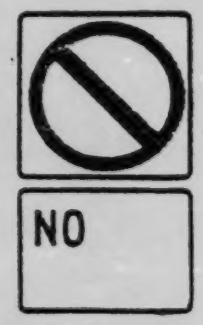
You may also see the "Do Not Enter" sign if you are turning the wrong way into a driveway or alley.

You may see the "Do Not Enter" sign if you try to go down the wrong aisle in a parking lot.

You may see both signs if you are turning the wrong way onto an exit ramp.



If you see the "Do Not Enter" or "Wrong Way" sign, pull over and stop right away! When it is safe, turn around so you are going the right way. You may want to go back to the road you were on before.



There are some signs that have a red circle with a red slash from left to right. The red circle and slash mean NO. The picture in the circle shows what is prohibited. If something is prohibited, it is against the law. You must not do it.

If you see these signs on a road, no trucks or bicycles are allowed on that road.

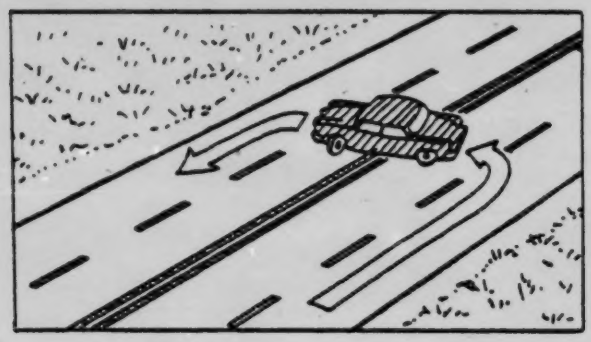
These signs tell you you must not make right or left turns.

These "No Turn" signs may be used at intersections with one-way streets.

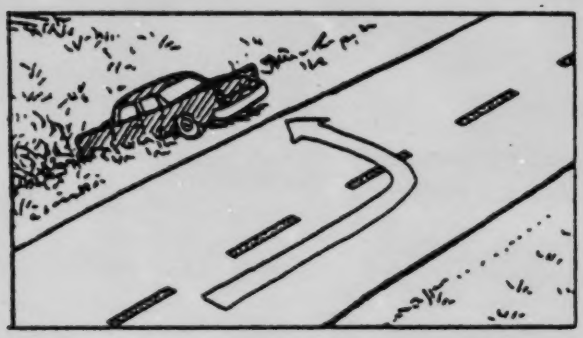
This driver cannot turn right on this street. It is a one-way street. If (s)he turns on it, (s)he must turn left.

These signs may be used by exit ramps off an expressway (see page 25).

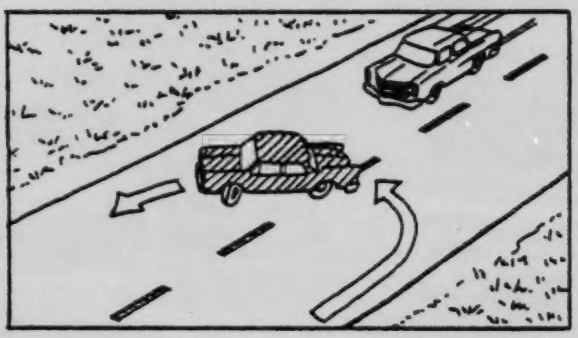
This sign tells you you must not make a U-turn.



When you make a U-turn, you make a sharp turn around to the left on the road so that you can go the other way. Your turn looks like an upside-down U.



Sometimes it is dangerous to make a U-turn. This is because you may not have enough room to turn in one big turn. The road may be too narrow.



Or it may be dangerous because you must drive into the other lane where traffic is coming toward you. If another car is coming toward you, you may not have enough time to turn.

So if you want to make a U-turn, make sure you have time and room to do it.

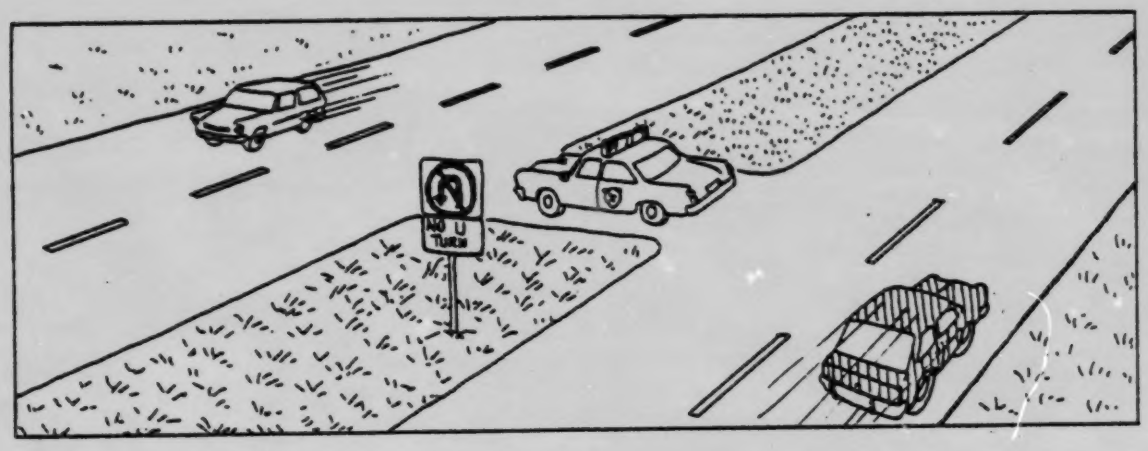
It is hard to see far ahead on curves and hills. Don't make a U-turn on curves and hills unless you can see at least 500 feet in both directions.

Never make a U-turn if you see this sign.

You will often see this sign in cities. Usually you cannot make U-turns in cities because you don't have enough time or enough room to turn. There is too much traffic.

On many busy streets you will not see this sign. So if you are driving in a city or on a busy street or highway and you don't know if you can make a U-turn, don't.

You may also see this sign on divided highways or expressways. You may see it where there is an opening in the divided highway. This opening leads to the other side of the divided highway or expressway.

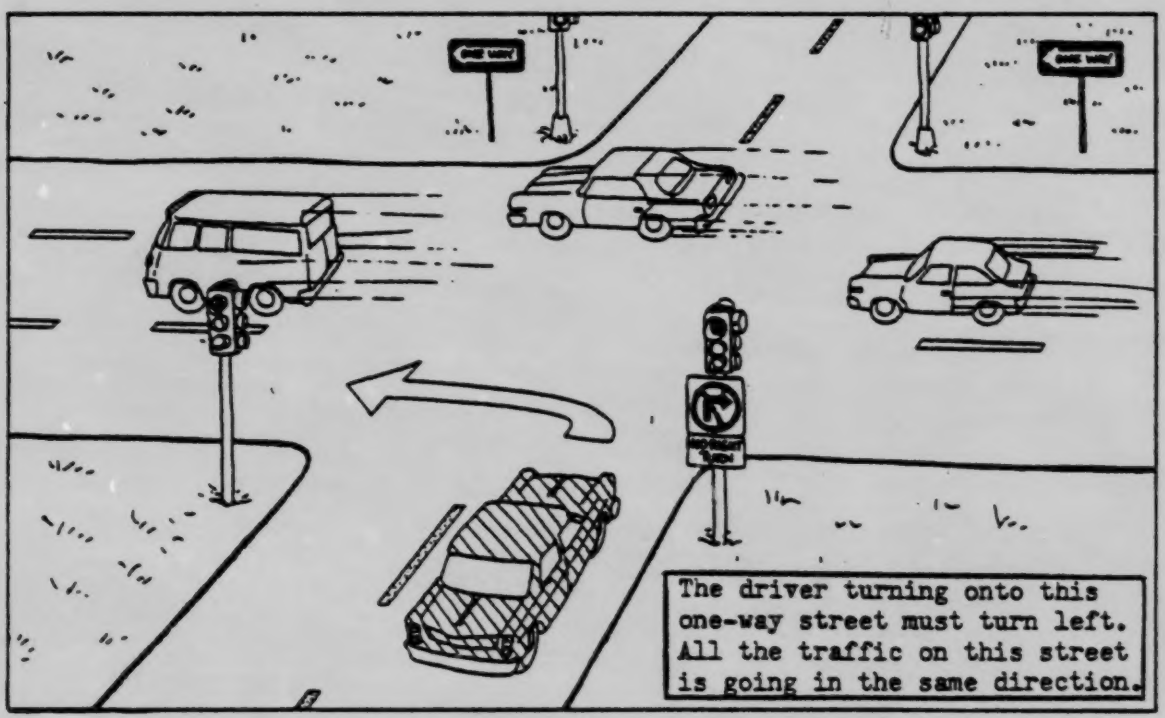


These places are for police cars, ambulances, snow plows, tow trucks, and other emergency vehicles. Such authorized vehicles (allowed by the law) may need to cross over to the other side of the expressway quickly. If you see this sign, you must not use this place to cross. These places must be free for these authorized vehicles to use. And it may be hard for you to cross over and get up to expressway speed before someone hits you.

Don't make a U-turn on expressways. If you want to get to the other side of the expressway, drive to an exit and exit off the expressway. Use an entrance ramp to get on the expressway going the other way.

These signs are used on one-way streets or driveways. On one-way streets or driveways, all the traffic is going in the same direction. (The traffic does not go two ways.)

When you get on a one-way street or driveway, make sure you are going in the direction of the arrow. Sometimes you will see these signs with other signs like "Do Not Enter," "Wrong Way," "No Right Turn," and "No Left Turn."



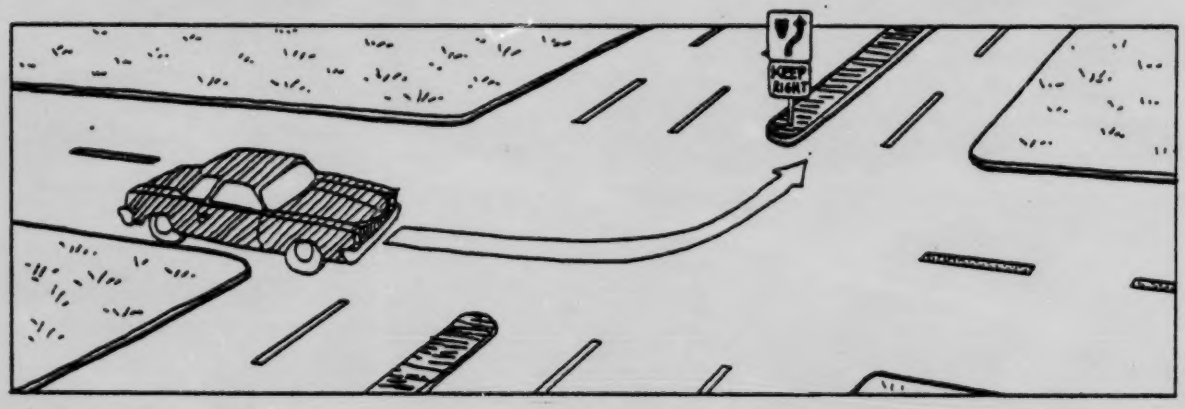
The driver turning onto this one-way street must turn left. All the traffic on this street is going in the same direction.

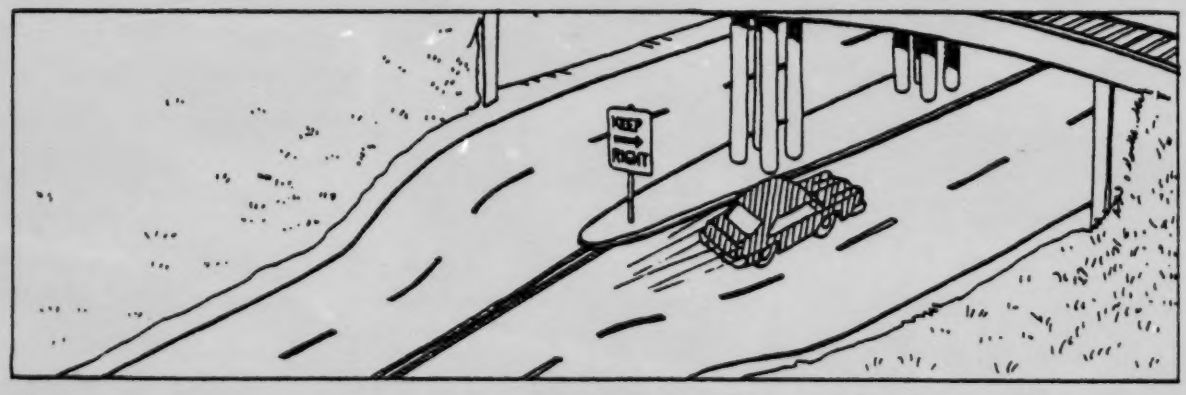
You must never go the wrong way on a one-way street. Only police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, or other emergency vehicles can do that. They can go the wrong way on a one-way street in an emergency.

If you are going the wrong way on a one-way street, pull over to the side of the road and stop right away! When it is safe, turn around so you are going the right way.

These signs tell you that you are coming up to something in the middle of the road. You may see grass or land. You may see raised strips (traffic islands or medians). Or you may see a cement wall, part of a bridge or underpass, or some other thing that blocks the road (obstruction). You must drive around these things. The arrow pointing to the right tells you to keep on the right side of the road. Drive around these things <u>to the right</u>. Do not drive around them to the left, or you might hit traffic coming toward you.

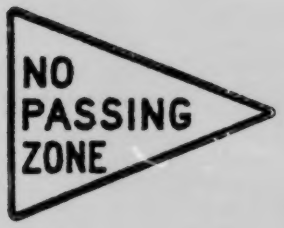
The first two signs are older signs, but you will still see them often. The last sign is the newest "Keep Right" sign.





Other regulatory signs tell you about passing.

Places where you cannot pass other cars are no-passing zones. At the start of a no-passing zone, you may see this sign. It is posted on many 2-lane roads with traffic going both ways. You will see this sign often on hills and curves. It warns you not to pass other cars.



You may see a new "no passing" sign that is different from the sign above. It has 3 sides, and it looks like a pennant (flag). It is yellow, and it warns you not to pass. It is on the left side of the road.

Besides "no passing" signs, there will be yellow "no passing" lines on the road. They also warn you not to pass. (See Pavement Markings on page 82).

When it is okay to pass, the no-passing lines on the road will end. And you may see this sign. It will tell you that you are at the end of the no-passing zone. You can pass now, but only if it is safe.

When you come up to an intersection with a stop sign or a red light, you may see a thick, solid (not dotted or broken) white line on the road. This line is a stop line. The sign tells you that you must stop behind the line, not at the sign or at the light.

Sometimes you come to very busy intersections where two or more big roads come together. Each road has several lanes. Instead of one traffic signal (red light), you see many traffic signals. Each traffic signal tells drivers in certain lanes what to do. This sign tells you to make sure which traffic signal is the right one for drivers in your lane. Then do what <u>your</u> traffic signal tells you to do. Do not follow the other signals for drivers in other lanes.

REGULATORY SIGNS--SPEED SIGNS

Many regulatory signs are speed signs. They tell you how fast you can go if you have good, safe driving conditions (like good weather and good roads). You should go slower than the speed signs say if you do not have good driving conditions.

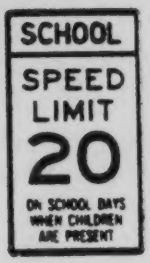
Signs like these give the speed limit. The speed limit is the maximum speed (the most speed or the highest speed) you can go. You must never go faster than the speed limit. The maximum speed limit across the U.S. now is 55. "55" means "55 m.p.h.," or "55 miles per hour." The signs at the left give the speeds for cars, motorcycles, and trucks that weigh less than 4 tons (8,000 pounds).

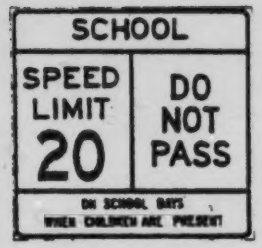
This sign alerts drivers of heavier trucks. Sometimes they have a lower speed limit.

Signs like this show the maximum speed limit and the minimum speed limit for all types of vehicles. The minimum speed limit is the least speed, or the slowest speed, that you can go. You must not drive slower than the minimum speed limit, unless you have to slow down for safety. Signs that give minimum speed limits are often posted on roads or expressways where traffic moves fast.

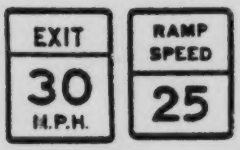
Sometimes you are driving for a while at a certain speed limit. Then you see these signs. The top sign tells you that you are coming up to a speed zone. This zone is an area where you will have to drive more slowly. The bottom sign tells you what the new speed limit will be.

Farther on you will see a regular speed limit sign for the new speed limit. You must drive at this new speed limit until you see other speed signs.





School zones also have special speed limit signs (see page 56).



Some speed signs are shaped like regulatory signs, but they are yellow like warning signs. These signs are the speed signs that are posted below warning signs for hills and curves (see page 52) and the speed limit signs on exit ramps and entrance ramps (see page 43). These signs show the maximum safe speed for curves and ramps if you have good driving conditions.

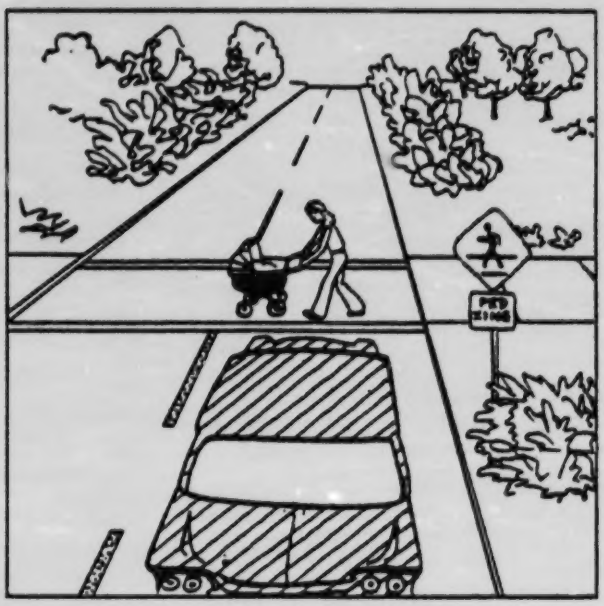
WARNING SIGNS

Warning signs prepare you for things which are coming up just ahead. They tell you what to look out for. They warn you about things that could be dangerous. You may have to act quickly. These signs help you get ready to act quickly.

Remember that warning signs are usually diamonds. Most warning signs are yellow. But there are orange warning signs, too. Orange signs warn you about construction and repairs.

Signs like these warn you of signal lights, stop signs, and yield signs ahead. You may not be able to see the signal light or stop or yield signs yet. But you are close enough that you must slow down for them. These warning signs may also be used at places where you are driving very fast. They tell you to start slowing down right away. You must slow down because it will take you longer to slow down or stop when you are driving at high speeds.

This sign is posted at a crosswalk for pedestrians (people walking). The crosswalk may not always be at an intersection. You should watch both sides of the street for pedestrians. Pedestrians have the right-of-way in the crosswalk.



"PED XING" means "pedestrian crossing."

"XING" also means "crossing" in the signs below.

These signs warn you that you are coming to places on the street or highway where vehicles or animals may be crossing.

Bicycles and vehicles like trucks, tractors, or snowmobiles may come out on the road. They may be going slower than you are. You may also have to watch for animals like cattle or deer.

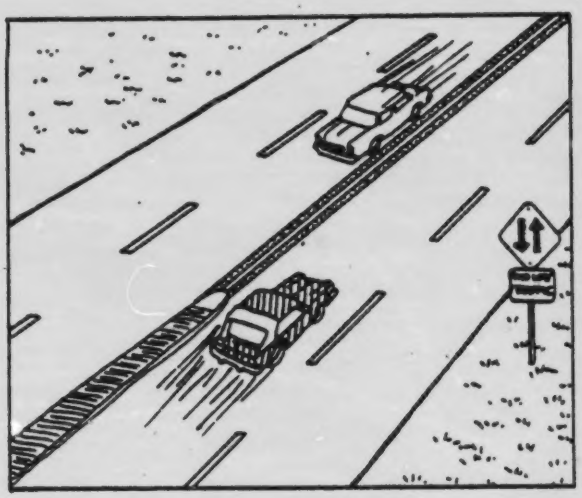
This sign warns you of a dangerous hill. You must be very careful going down the hill because the road down is very long or steep or has many curves. Slow down before you start down.

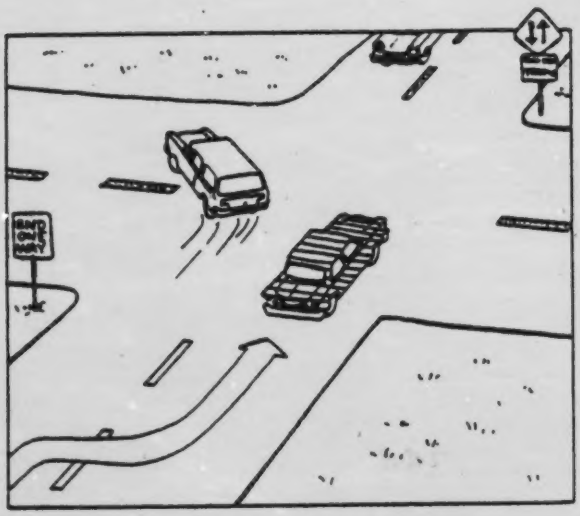
All roads are slippery when wet, but this sign warns of places that may be very dangerous when wet. You should slow down if the road is wet because it may take you longer to stop at such places. Also, you may need to go slower to keep control of your car. You will see this sign at curves. You will also see it at overpasses and on hills or bridges.

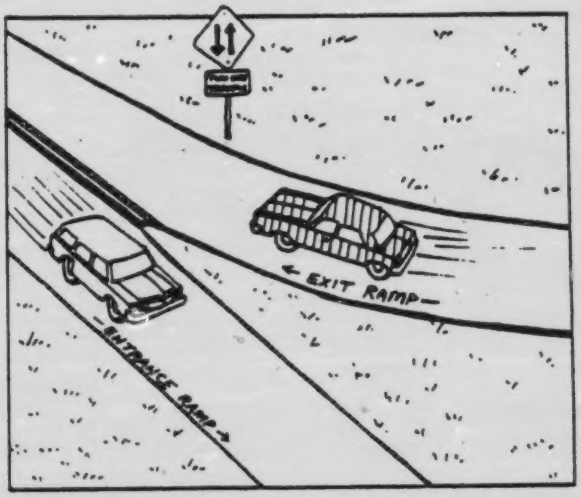
(old sign)

This sign tells you that the separated one-way road you are on is ending. It becomes a two-way roadway. Now the cars on the roadways are going both ways. There is two-way traffic.

You may also see this sign when a one-way road becomes a two-way road.

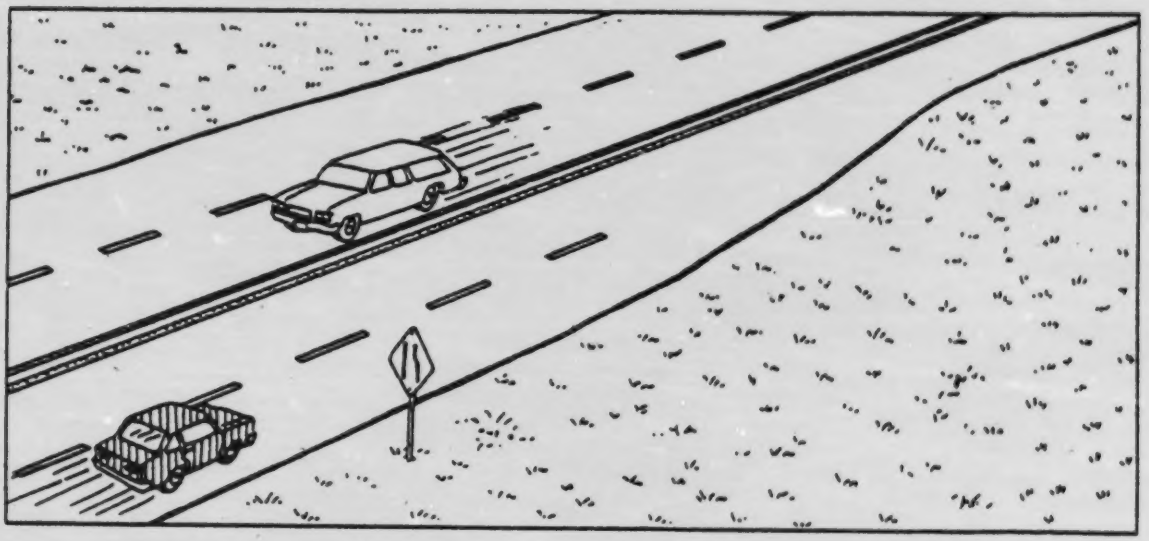




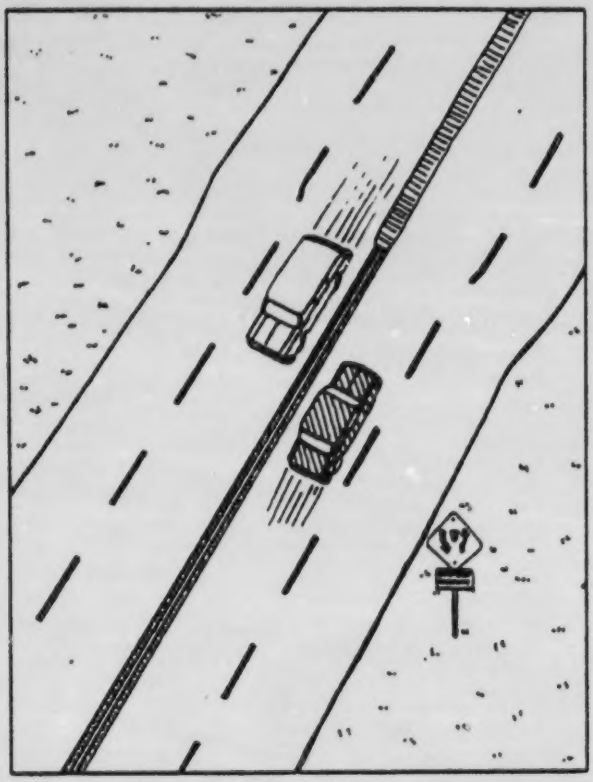


Be careful when you see merging lanes signs. Soon two lanes of traffic will merge (come together) into one lane. If your lane is ending, you must move into the other lane. You must yield the right-of-way to the traffic in the other lane.

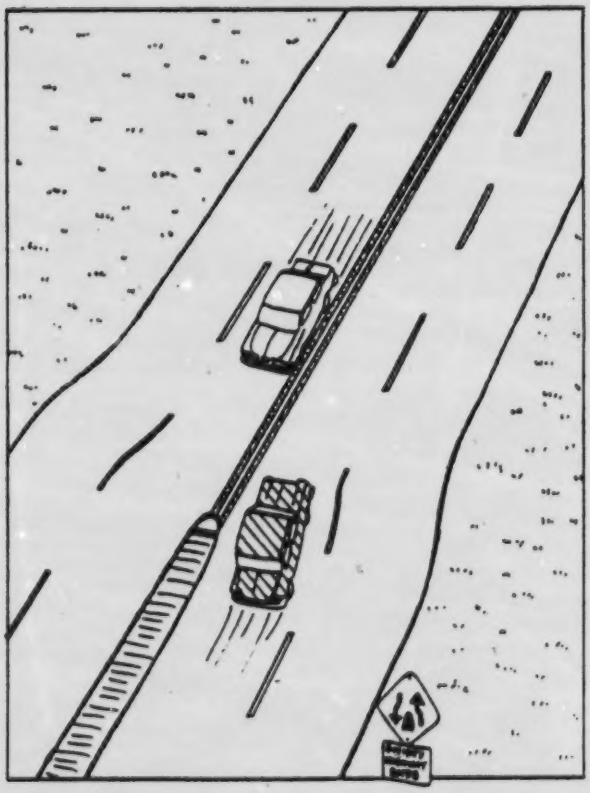
Sometimes you see signs like this with the merging lanes sign.



You may also see merging lanes signs that look like this. The left lane ends, and you must merge right.



This sign is used before the beginning of a divided highway. On a divided highway a center strip divides the road. Cars going one way drive on one side of the strip. Cars going the other way drive on the other side of the strip.

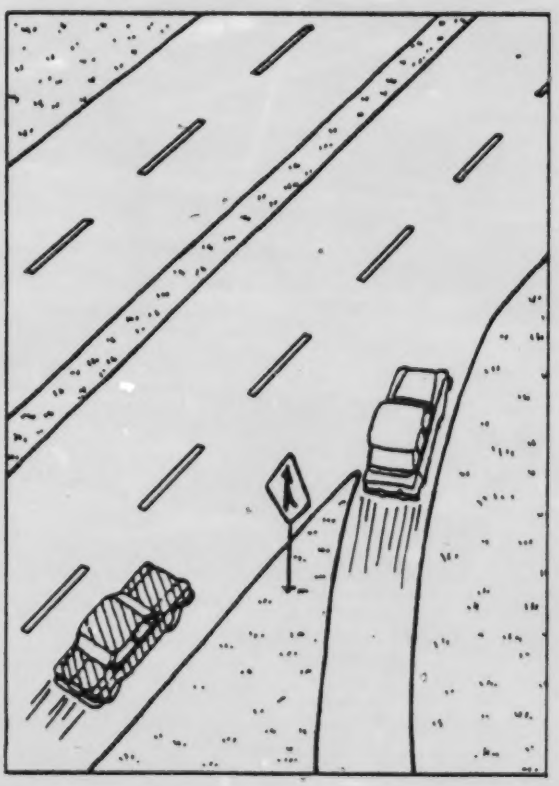


When you get to the end of the divided highway, you will see this sign. Be careful as you get close to the end of the divided highway. There will then be a yellow center line or lines. But the yellow line(s) will be the only thing to separate you from the traffic coming toward you.

You will see this merge sign on expressways. It will be just before places where traffic from a ramp is entering the expressway. As ramp traffic enters the expressway, it will merge (come together) with the expressway traffic.

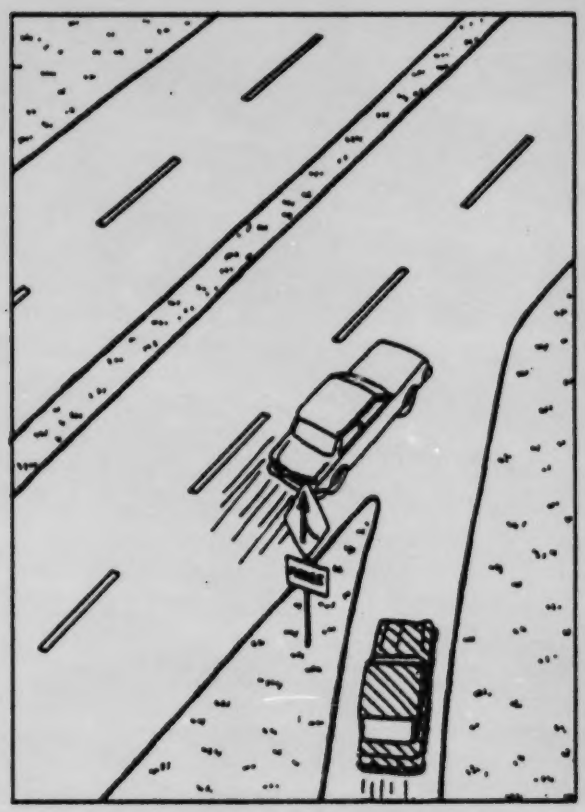
The driver already on the expressway must adjust his/her speed. That driver must speed up or slow down to let the driver entering the expressway get on safely. The driver on the expressway may want to move into the other lane if (s)he can. This will make room for the driver entering the expressway.

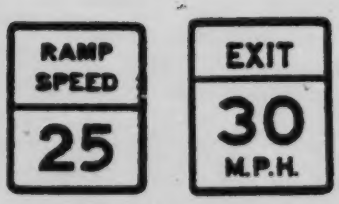
The driver entering the expressway must also adjust his/her speed. Both drivers must adjust their speeds to prevent an accident (keep an accident from happening). Each driver checks the speed of the other car and how close it is, and then adjusts his/her own speed.



The driver on the expressway slows down to let the driver on the ramp merge onto the expressway. As the driver on the ramp merges onto the expressway, (s)he speeds up to match the speed of the expressway traffic. And (s)he speeds up to avoid hitting the car on the expressway.

The driver on the expressway speeds up so as not to hit the car on the ramp. The driver on the ramp slows down to let the driver on the expressway go ahead.





You will see these signs at entrance and exit ramps of expressways. They tell you the maximum speed you can go on the ramp in getting on or off the expressway. It is not safe to go faster than the speed on the sign. You may lose control of your car if you do.

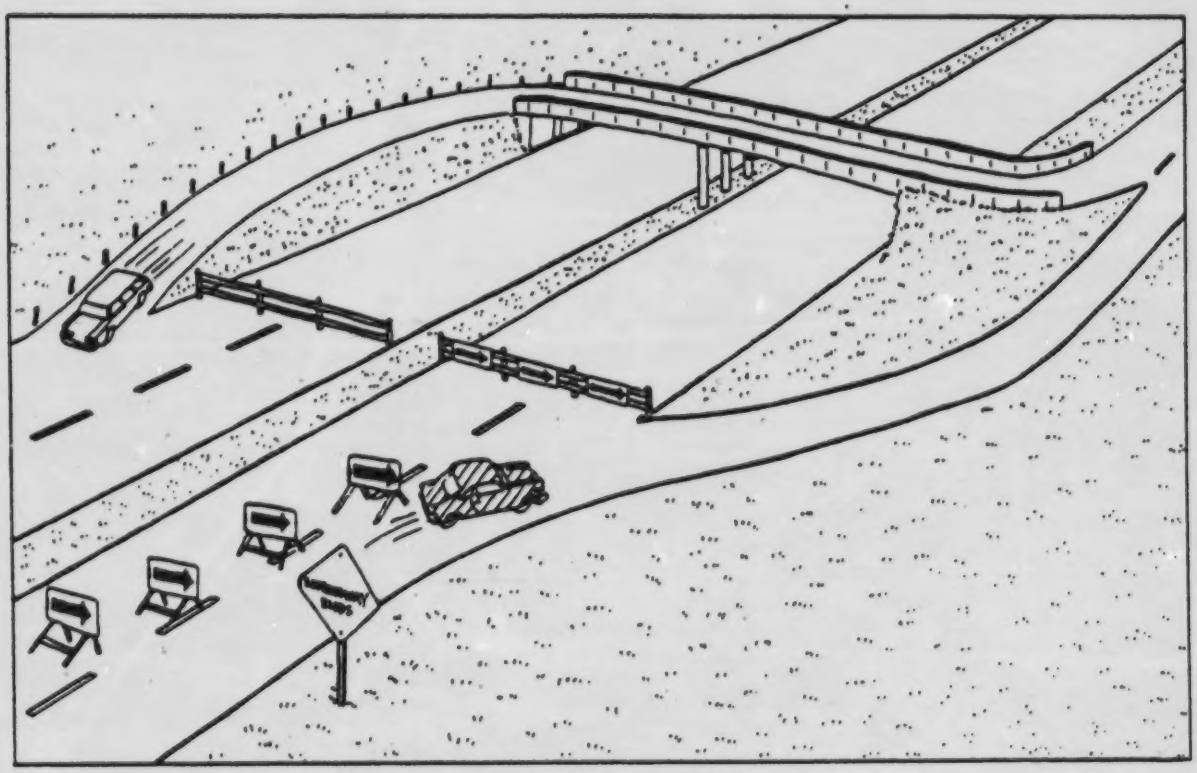
Watch for narrow roads and narrow bridges!

Sometimes 2-lane roads get smaller suddenly. The driver must be very careful at such places. (S)he will be closer to cars (s)he meets coming from the other way.

Not all bridges are wide. A bridge may be only as wide as the road that leads up to that bridge. Or a bridge may be even narrower than that road. This sign warns you about such bridges. When you cross these bridges, you will have to be careful; you will be driving closer to the cars that are coming across from the other side.

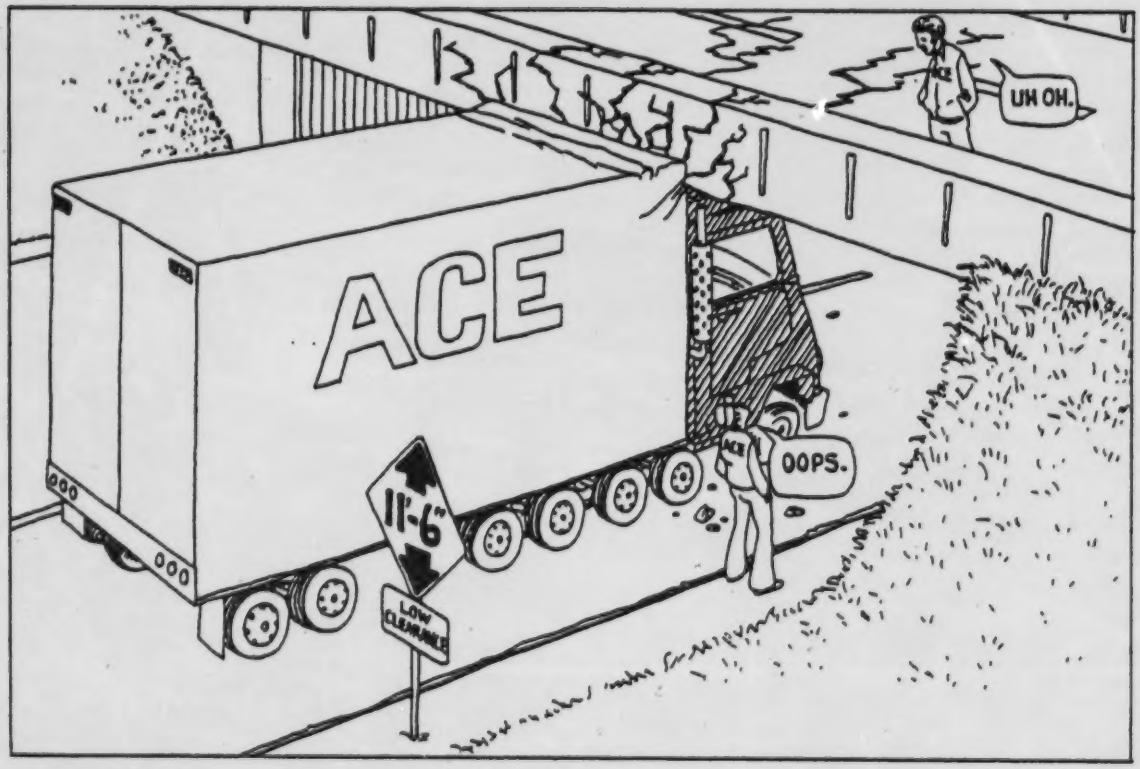
You see this sign when you are coming up to a short stretch of divided highway at an intersection. Be careful. Make sure to get in the correct lane.

This sign warns you the expressway ahead is not finished. There may be a barricade ahead. You may have to slow down and leave the expressway. Or the expressway may become another road.



This sign warns you that the road you are on will end. You will not be able to turn off this road onto another road. If you do not want to be stuck at the end of this road, you must turn around and go back the other way on this same road.

This sign warns of a low over-pass. Very tall vehicles may not be able to get under the road or bridge or whatever passes above. Vehicles that are taller than the height on the sign will probably get stuck!

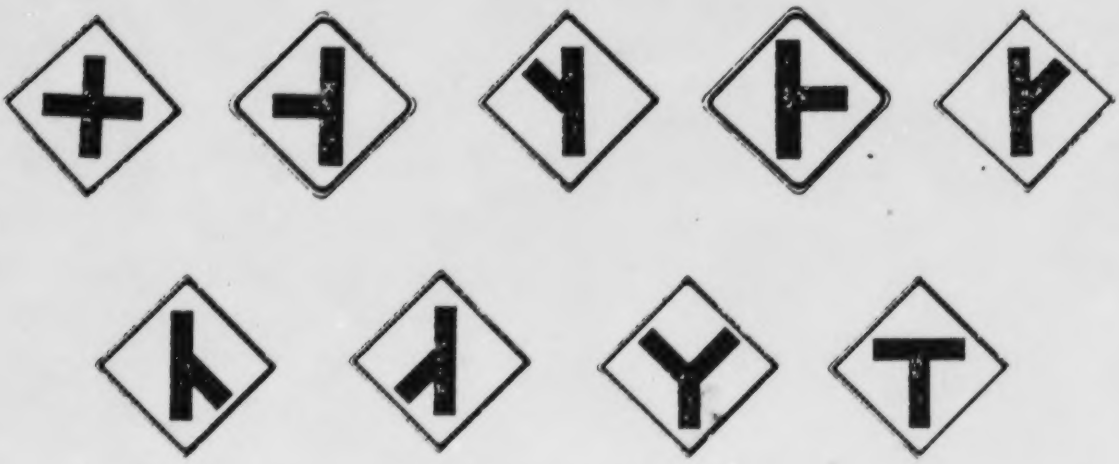


These signs warn of bumps, dips, or rough spots in the road. You should slow down and grip (hold) the steering wheel of your car tightly. This will help you keep control of your car when you go over bad places in the road.

Sometimes you may come to places where there is an obstruction (something blocking traffic) in the road. Or there will be places where the road divides. Then you will see this warning sign. You must drive to one side or the other.

These are some more warning signs. The shape of these signs warns you to be careful. And the color of these signs warns you to be careful. These signs tell you what to expect or what to look out for.

Some of these signs warn you about intersections coming up ahead. There may be traffic at these intersections. Or you may have to turn left or right. Sometimes another sign may tell you the name of the road that comes together with the road you are on.



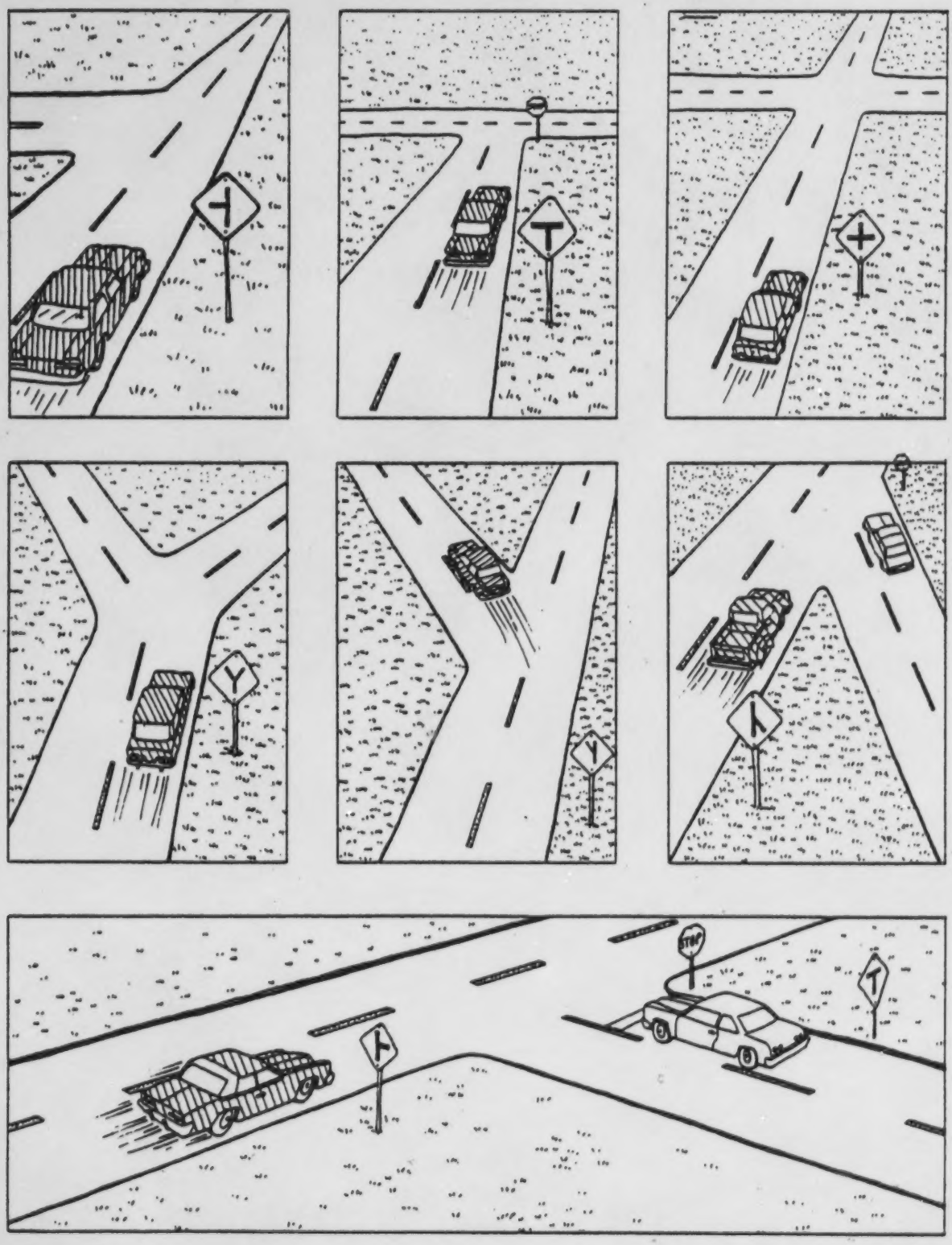
This is a crossroad sign. It warns you that another road will cross the road you are on.

These side road signs warn you that soon another road will join the road you are on. The top 3 signs show that another road will join your road from the left side. The bottom 3 signs show that another road will join your road from the right side.

This is a "T" - intersection sign. It means another road will cross the road you are on. When this other road crosses your road, the two roads will make a T. When you come to a "T"-intersection, your road ends. You must turn to the left or to the right.

This is a "Y"-intersection sign. It warns you that the road you are on will come together with two other roads. When the roads come together, they will make a Y. Your road ends. You must turn onto the left road or the right road.

Look at how these intersection signs are used:



These signs warn you that the road will turn or curve ahead.

Turn signs

Curve signs

These are turn signs. They warn you that soon your road will turn very sharply. Your road will turn...

to the right

to the left

to the right and then to the left. (The turn to the right will come just before the turn to the left.)

to the left and then to the right. (The turn to the left will come just before the turn to the right.)

These are curve signs. Curves are not as sharp as turns, so they are not as hard for the driver to make. These signs warn you that soon your road will curve. Your road will curve...

to the right

to the left

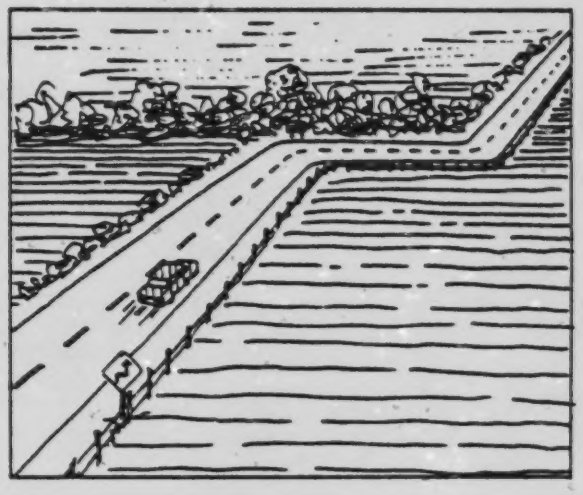
to the right and then to the left. (The curve to the right will come just before the curve to the left.)

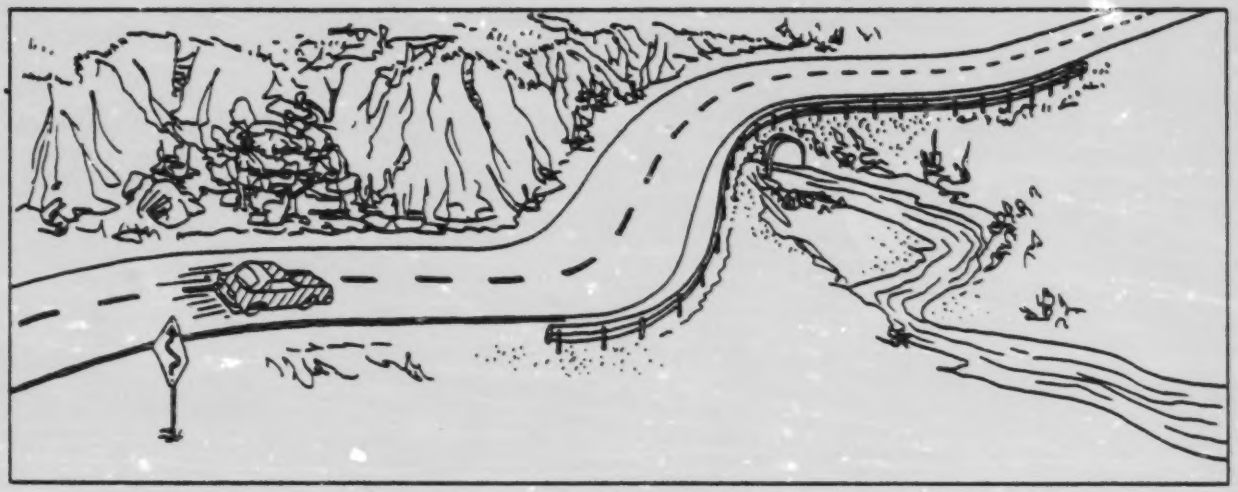
to the left and then to the right. (The curve to the left will come just before the curve to the right.)

This is a winding road sign. It warns that the road ahead will make many curves to both the left and the right. The curves may be very close together.

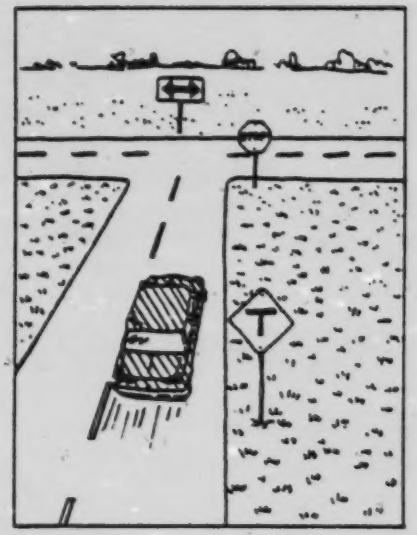
There may be a small sign below the curve or turn signs. This small sign is yellow. So it is also a warning sign. It tells you a safe speed for the turn or the curve. If you go faster than the speed on this sign, you may lose control of your car. Since curves are not as sharp as turns, you can usually drive faster on a curve than on a turn.

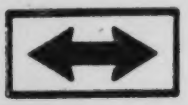
Look at how these turn and curve signs are used:



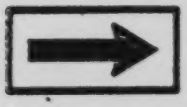


Sometimes you may be on a road that will turn or curve sharply. Then you may see the signs below. They are not diamonds, but they are warning signs because they are yellow. They have arrows on them. The arrows show which way the road will turn or curve.



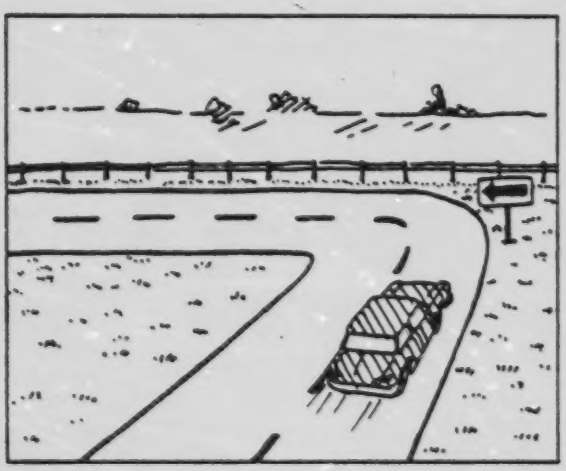


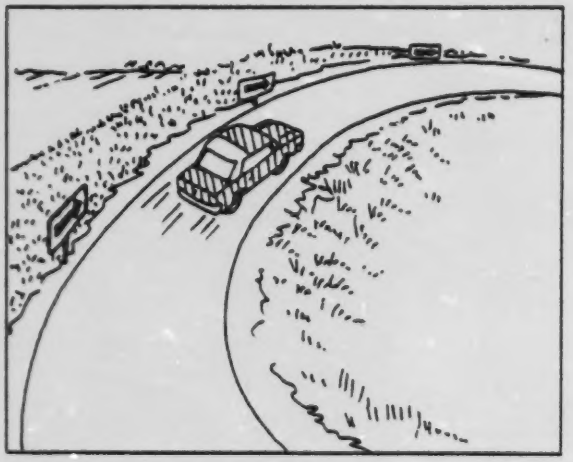
You may see this sign when you are at a T-intersection. It warns you that your road has ended. You must now turn left or right onto this new road.



You may see this sign when you are on a road that makes a sharp turn or curve. You must turn in the direction of the arrow.

Sometimes you may see this same sign when you are driving on a long curve. The sign tells you to keep going in the direction of the arrow.





Some warning signs are not diamonds.

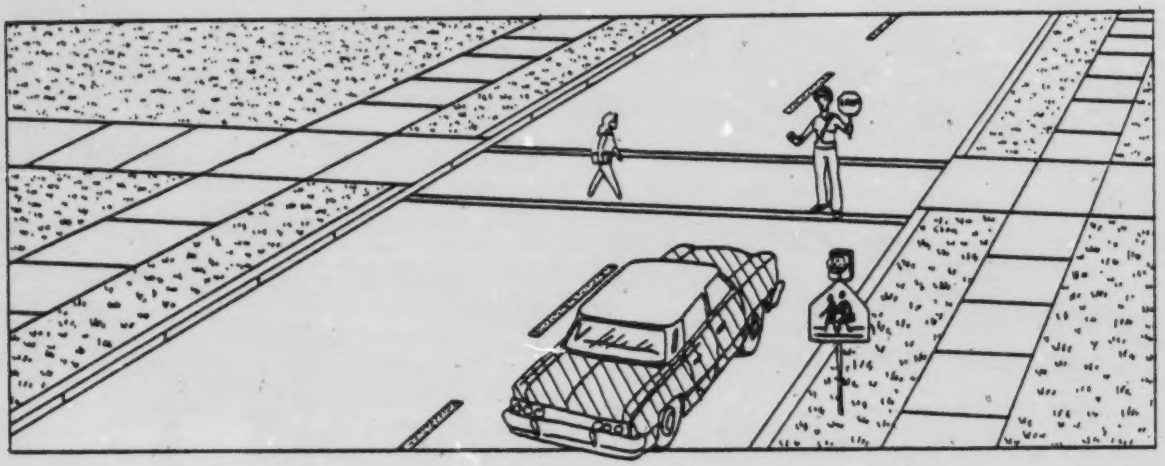
Remember that this round yellow sign warns you of a railroad crossing. In the country (rural areas), it will be 500 to 900 feet before the railroad tracks.

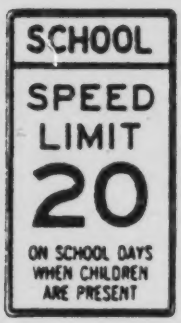
School signs warn you of places where schools are and where children cross the street. They are very important. It is hard to tell what children may do next. And it is hard to see them. You must watch out for the children.

These signs are yellow and have 5 sides. They are shaped like an old school house. They show two children walking.

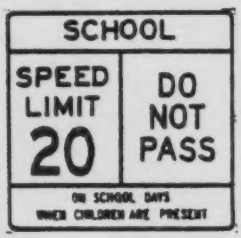
School zones are places where schools are. This is a school zone sign. It warns you that a school is near the street or road. It also warns you that a school crossing may be coming up ahead.

This sign is used at school crossings. It shows two children walking in a crosswalk. You must slow down, watch carefully, and get ready to stop. You might also see school crossing signals or crossing guards near this sign.





This is a school speed zone sign. You must slow down to 20 m.p.h. or slower. But you only have to slow down on school days when children are around. Don't forget that children have classes at different times during the day. And they may even be at school at night. Often children go to school in the summer, too.



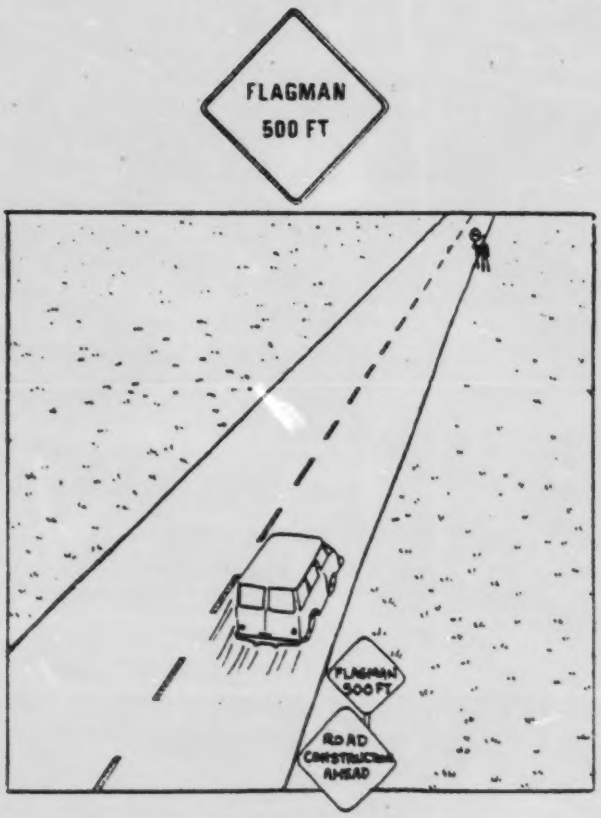
In some smaller areas you may see a "Do Not Pass" sign along with the school speed limit sign.

CONSTRUCTION WARNING SIGNS

Most warning signs are diamonds. And most warning signs are yellow. These warning signs are diamonds, but they are orange.

Orange warning signs are construction and repair warning signs. They tell you that someone is building or fixing the road ahead. They tell you to watch for dangers ahead. And they give you time to slow down.

These signs tell you to watch for road construction ahead. You should slow down and drive carefully.

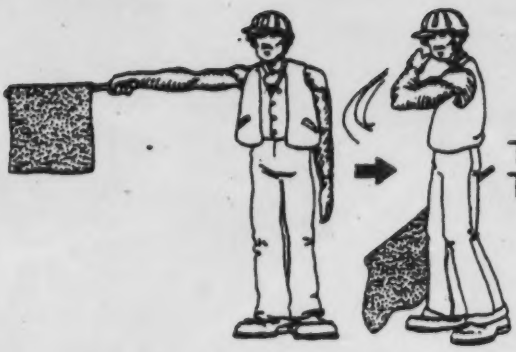


This sign means you will soon see a person with a flag or a sign. You will see him/her 500 feet ahead. (S)he will tell the drivers from both ways what to do. You must be ready to do what (s)he tells you to do. (S)he may tell you to stop or to go ahead. (S)he may tell you to slow down. Or (s)he may alert you or warn you to look out for things ahead.

A flagman can signal you with a flag or a paddle.

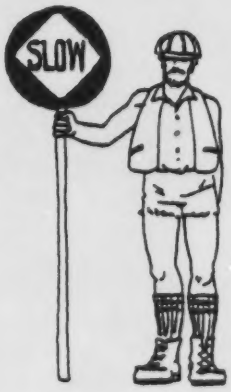
FLAG or PADDLE

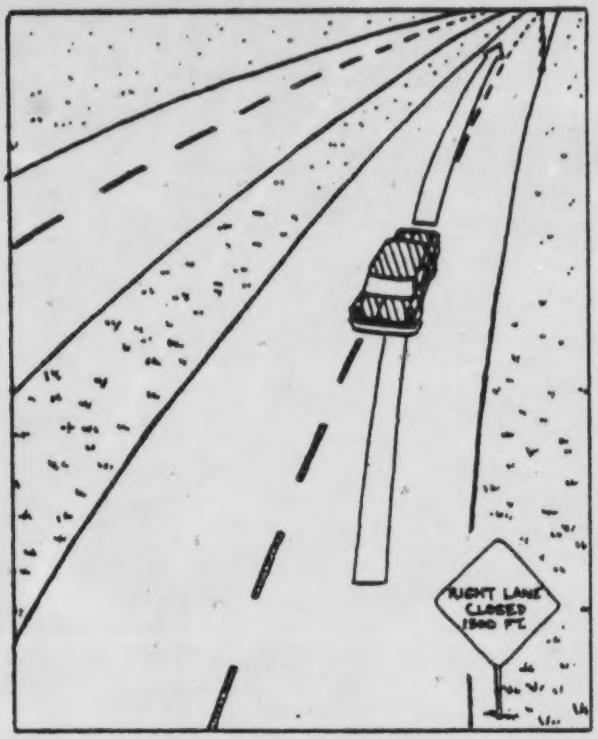
TO STOP TRAFFIC



TO SLOW TRAFFIC

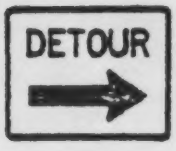
TO ALERT TRAFFIC



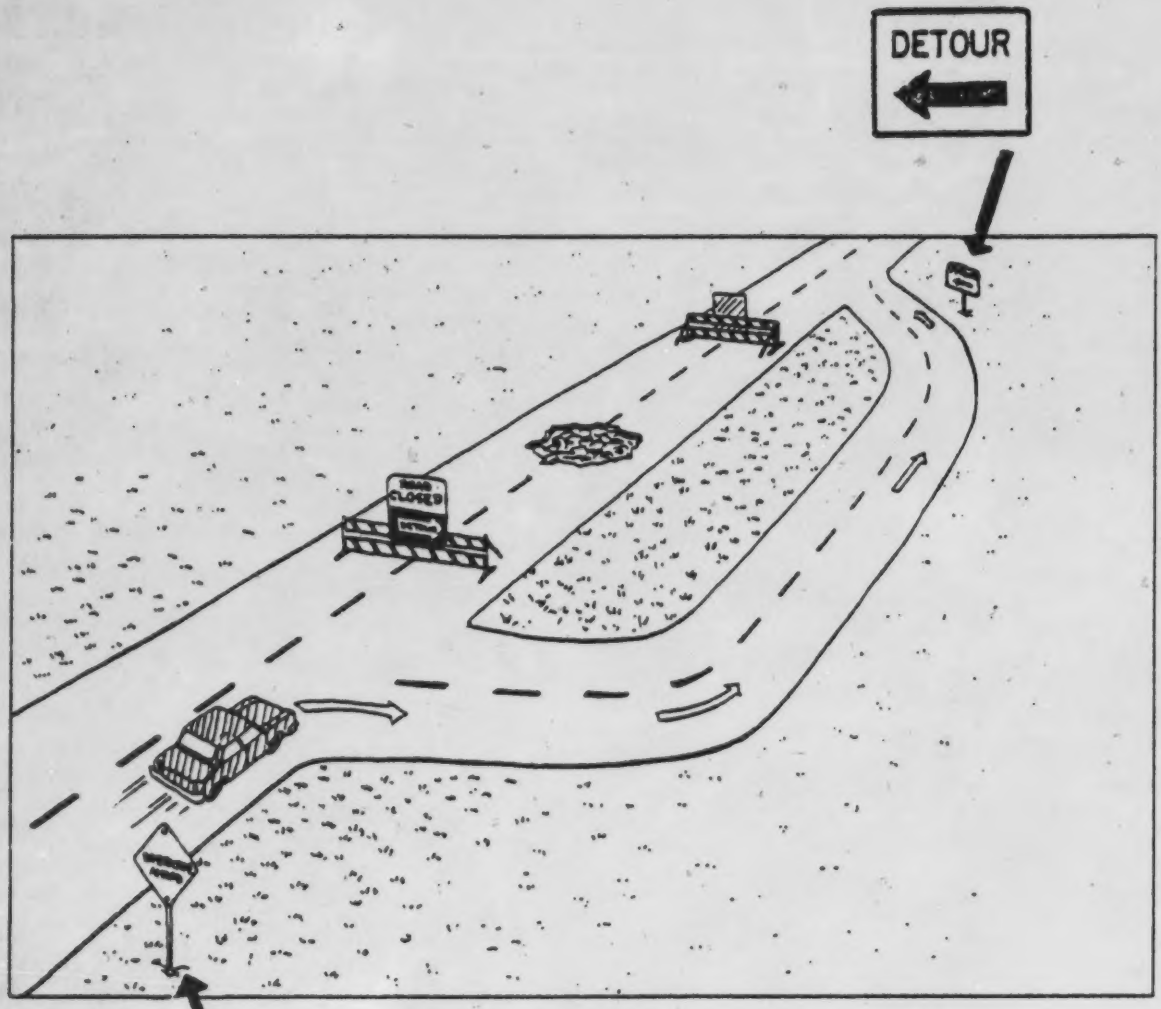


This sign tells you that the right lane will be closed 1500 feet ahead. You must move into the left lane before the right lane is closed. But before you start to move into the left lane, look. You must not start to move into the left lane until it is clear behind you.

This is a detour sign. In 1000 feet you must leave the road you are on because people will be fixing or rebuilding a part of that road. You must turn off onto another street or road called a detour. You must drive on this other street or road until you can get back on the road you want.



Usually you will see signs like this. Follow these signs. They will take you to where the road you want continues on. Some detours are short; others are long.



This is a barricade ahead sign. A barricade blocks off the road or a part of the road. It keeps you away from dangerous places. Other signs will tell you what to do when you get near the barricade.

GUIDE SIGNS

Guide signs tell you where you are, what road you are on, and how to get where you want to go. Most of them are rectangles (have 4 sides and are shaped like the signs below). But some have other shapes.

Location, Direction, and Distance Signs

Some guide signs give you information on <u>where you are</u> (location) <u>which way you are going</u> (direction), and <u>how far you have left to go</u> (distance). These guide signs have 4 sides, and they are green and white.

You will see these signs at intersections on smaller roads. They tell you the name(s) of the closest town(s) and how far it is to the town(s).

Signs like these are used on main roads. They will be just after intersections and just outside cities. They tell you how far it is to other cities.

These signs are used just before intersections. They tell you which way to go to get to the city or town you want to reach.

This sign tells you that U.S. Highway 56 will soon cross the highway or expressway that you are on. You may want to exit off the highway or expressway and get on Highway 56. Highway 56 will take you to the cities of Metropolis and Utopia. The exit for Highway 56 and these cities is Exit 33. This sign tells you Exit number 33 is coming up in two miles. The A and B tell you there are two exits for Highway 56.

You are driving on the expressway and you see this sign. It tells you the number of the exit you are just coming to. This is Exit number 44. The exit number on this sign is the same as the number on the milepost that is nearest the exit sign.

This is a milepost. You will see it along the edge of the highway. There will be a milepost every mile along the roadway from one end of the state to the other. On roads going north and south, the milepost numbers start from 0 at the southern border of the state or from the southern end of the highway. And they go up as the road goes north.

On roads going east and west, the numbers start from 0 at the western border of the state or the western end of the highway. And they go up as the road goes east. Mileposts help you tell how far you have to go to get to exits, cities, or the state line. If you use the milepost number and the exit number, you can figure out how far you are from the exit you want.

Signs like these tell you what is coming up ahead on the highway you are on. They tell how to continue on the highway. And they tell you about different ways to leave the highway you are on. They show you exactly how to get on other roads that may take you where you want to go.

Here are some other green guide signs that you may see:

This sign points out a bike trail (way). The driver must watch for bike riders on the road.

This sign points to public parking places that are not far away.

This sign points to a hiking trail. Drivers must watch out for hikers.

Green guide signs can also tell you the names of towns and cities (some signs give the population, too), and the names of streets and rivers.

Green guide signs can tell you when you reach the city limits, state lines, and county lines.

Other guide signs point out weigh stations. They also give information on elevations (how high up you are), landmarks, and other places of interest.

And some green guide signs are used to direct drivers on expressways and important roads (see pages 131 and 134).

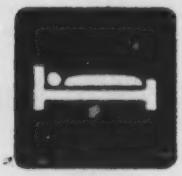
Service Signs

Blue signs are service signs. They tell you where to find the following services:

a place to telephone

a place to get gas

a place to eat (restaurant)



a place to sleep (lodging--a hotel or motel)

a hospital with special trauma center

a place for people to camp

a place for people with trailers to camp

a pretty place to stop

a place to have a picnic

a place to rest--often a place to have a picnic, or a place with bathrooms and services for campers.

Get off at the second exit to the right for all these services.

a place for tourists (visitors) to get information

Get off at the next exit to the right to get to the rest area.

If you need any services, get off at this exit. It will be 33 miles before another exit with services.

a state police headquarters

Park and Recreation Signs

Brown signs tell you where to find parks and other places to have fun (recreation areas). You may see these signs by recreation areas like swimming pools and ice skating rinks. The arrow will tell you which side of the road they are on.

Brown signs are also used for historical markers in Illinois. These markers point out places that were important in history. You may want to visit them.

GUIDE SIGNS--ROUTE MARKERS

One kind of guide sign is a route marker. Route markers are used by themselves or with smaller signs above or below them. They direct you along the road you wish to take.

You will see this red, white, and blue route marker on multi-lane highways all across the U.S. It tells you that you are on an Interstate freeway or expressway. This freeway will pass through more than one state.

An Illinois Interstate expressway →

On a freeway or an expressway, traffic moves very fast. Freeways and expressways are limited-access roads. This means you can only get on and off them at certain marked places. Usually the traffic will keep moving because there aren't any stop signs or signal lights.

Odd-numbered expressways usually run north and south. (Odd-numbered roads end with 1,3,5,7 or 9.) Even-numbered expressways usually run east and west. (Even-numbered roads end with 0,2,4,6, or 8.)

Interstate highways with 3 numbers are near important cities.

Interstate 74 passes through Illinois. Then it continues into Indiana. The expressway signs may have the name of the state that you are passing through.

This route marker is for a U.S. highway that is usually not a freeway or expressway. The route number stays the same through more than one state. But there may be stop signs and signal lights on U.S. highways.

This is a route marker for a state road. This route will not continue into another state. Other states may have different state route markers.

This is a route marker for a county road. Soon many county road markers all across the U.S. will look like this.

Now look at how these signs can be used to direct you:

This sign tells you State Route 47 goes to the left or right.

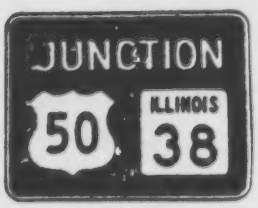
These signs have been put together to tell you to turn right to go north on state route 47.

This group of signs tells you that very soon your route will turn to the right.

These signs tell you to go straight to get on to U.S. Highway 40.

These two signs together mean you are approaching an intersection or a junction. JCT means junction. A junction is a place where two roads come together. The junction you are approaching is marked Illinois 47. So your road is about to meet State Route 47.

You are approaching the intersection of the route you are on with U.S. Route 45 and Illinois Route 47. Watch for other signs which will show you the way to the road you want.



Some junction signs may look like this.

Now you have learned about the important road signs. Read on to find out about the traffic signal lights and pavement markings that direct you when you drive.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL LIGHTS

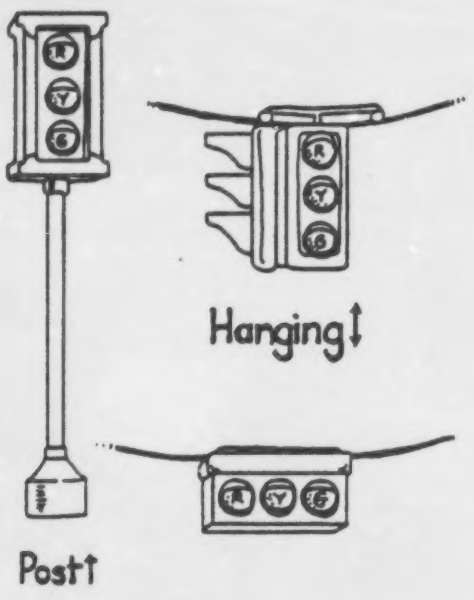
Traffic signal lights are used at places where you need more information than a sign can give. Signal lights can be red, yellow, green, orange, or white. They can have the following shapes:

a circle an arrow an X a rectangle

And there are both flashing signal lights and steady signal lights (lights that don't flash).

Steady Red, Yellow, and Green Lights

Signal lights are very important in controlling traffic. You must obey all signal lights unless a police officer tells you to do otherwise.



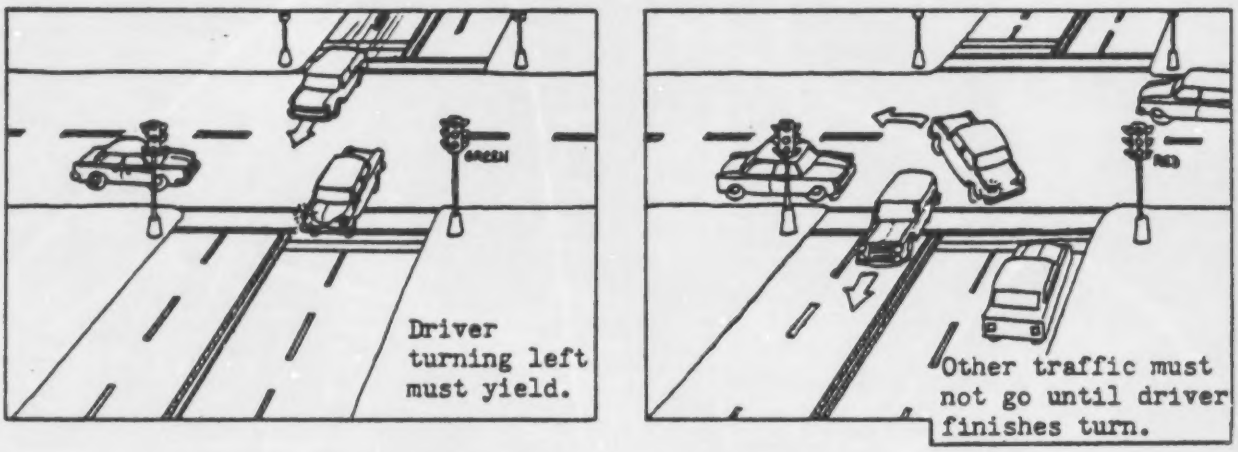
The signal lights you will see most often are the steady red, yellow, and green lights used together. These 3 lights may be on posts on the corners of an intersection. Then the red light is on top, the yellow light is in the middle, and the green light is on the bottom. Or the lights may be hung above the roadway. They may be hung in the same order. Or you may see them going across in this order: red, yellow, green.

Steady Red Light

The steady red light means that you must stop and wait for the green light. You must stop at the stop line. If there is no stop line, stop at the crosswalk lines. If there is no stop line or crosswalk lines, stop before entering the intersection.

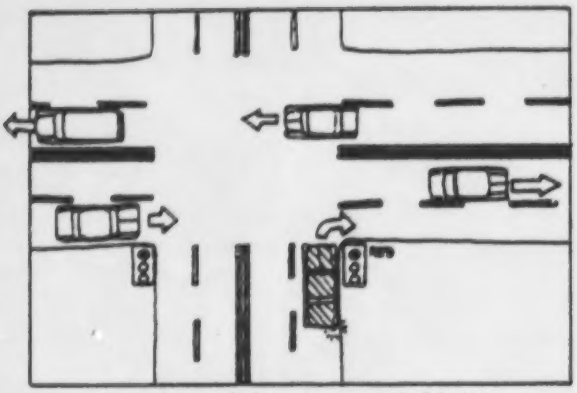
Sometimes you will enter the intersection to turn left. When traffic is coming toward you, you must yield the right of way to this traffic. This means you will have to wait until the traffic clears to make your turn. If there are many cars coming, the light may turn yellow. It may even turn red while you are still waiting in the intersection. If this happens, you must still wait until all the traffic clears. Then you may complete your turn. Don't worry. Other traffic must yield until you have finished your turn.

If you want to turn left and you are not yet in the intersection when the light changes to red, you must wait for the next green light.

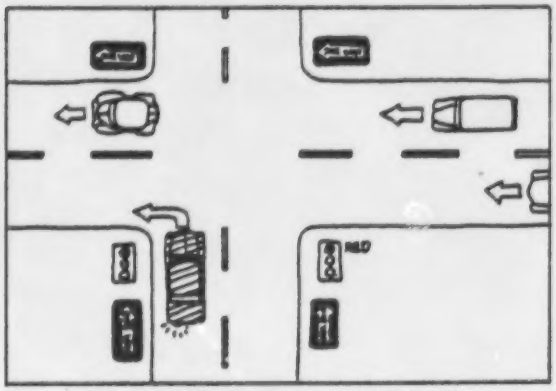


You can make a right turn on a red light at most intersections. But you must do the following things:

1. Come to a full stop.
2. Look for traffic that is coming.
3. Yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians and traffic still in the intersection.
4. Go when it is safe to do so.



Turning right on a red light.



Turning left on a red light.

There is one time when a driver can turn left on a red light. The driver can turn left is (s)he is turning from a one-way street onto another one-way street where the traffic is moving to the left. (S)he must also come to a complete stop, yield to other traffic, and go only when it is safe to do so.

If a driver sees this sign, (s)he must not turn on the red light at this intersection!

Steady Yellow Light

The steady yellow light warns you that the signal light is changing from green to red. If you are just about to enter the intersection or are already in the intersection, it gives you time to get across before the light turns red.

What if you are approaching the intersection when the light turns yellow? You must quickly decide if you can safely stop. You need to think about the distance it will take you to stop. And you need to think about the traffic in front of you and behind you. Will you be able to brake to a stop without entering the intersection? If you're going very fast, you may not be able to. If you do stop, will the driver behind you hit your car? The one thing you must remember is that once the red light comes on, you must not enter the intersection.

Steady Green Light

The steady green light tells you that you may go when it is safe. You may go straight or turn right or left. But first you must yield to all pedestrians and other traffic still within the intersection.

As you approach the green light, notice how long it has been on. If it has been on for a long time, it may soon turn yellow.

Arrows

Besides steady red, yellow and green lights, you may see red, yellow, and green arrows.

The round, steady green light allows a driver to go in any direction (left, right, or straight ahead). But the green arrow itself tells you that you may only move the way the arrow points.

(green)

A green arrow pointing up tells you that you may go straight ahead only.

(green)

You may turn right if you are in the proper lane.

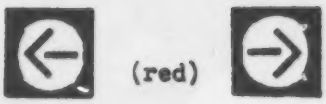
(green)

You may turn left if you are in the proper lane.

Before you go straight or turn, let pedestrians and other traffic clear the intersection.

(yellow)

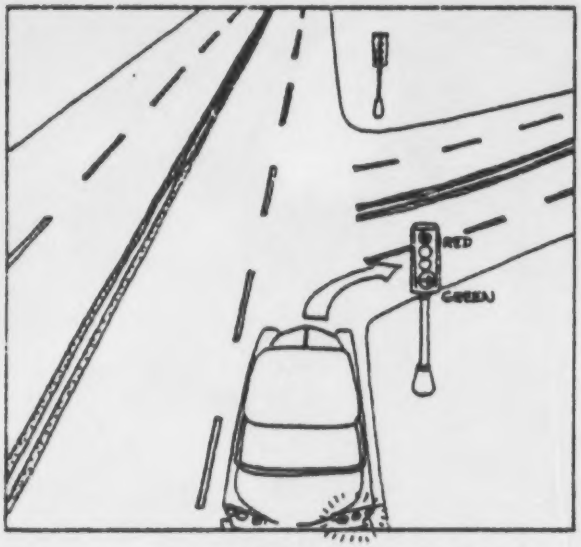
A yellow arrow may come on after the green arrow. When the yellow arrow goes off, you will not be able to freely turn in the direction of the arrow. The movement may be prohibited. Or you may now have to yield to on-coming traffic before making the movement.

 (red)

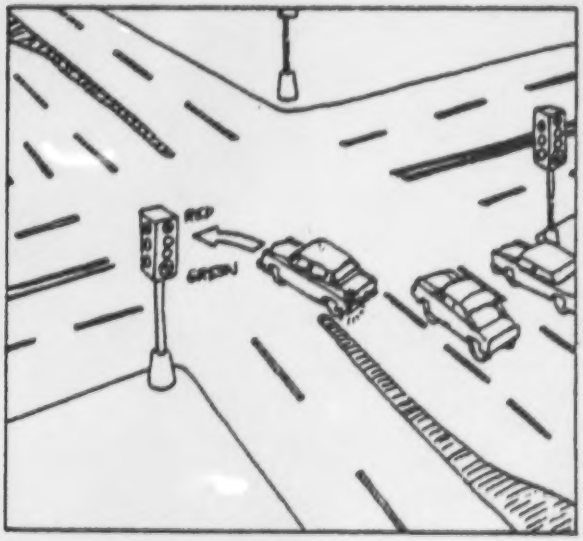
A red arrow is sometimes used in other states. It is used where there are special lanes for turning left or right. It means the same thing as a red light. But it only tells drivers going the same way as the arrow to stop. It says traffic in the turning lanes may not turn.

On the next page you will see some of the signal lights with arrows. Notice what to do when you see them.

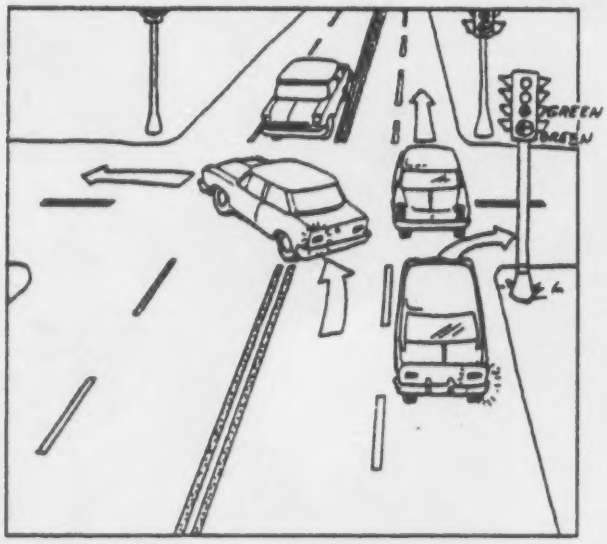
When you see a red light and a green arrow, you may turn the way the arrow says without stopping if the intersection is clear. The only traffic that stops is the traffic that is not going in the direction of the arrow.



You may turn right without stopping.



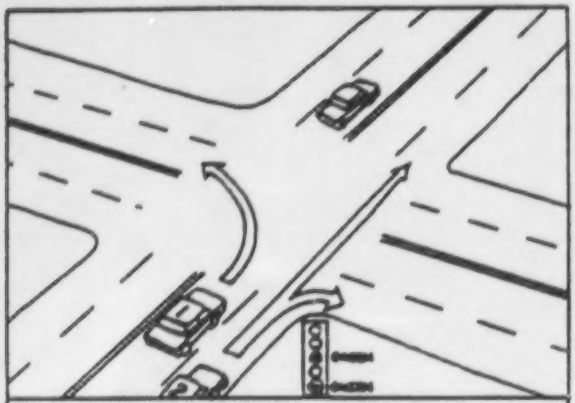
You may turn left without stopping.



The steady green light tells you that you can go in any direction. And when this green arrow is on, you may turn left. You will not have to worry about oncoming traffic because it is stopped. Once the green arrow goes off and the green light stays on, you may still turn left. But you will have to yield to oncoming traffic.

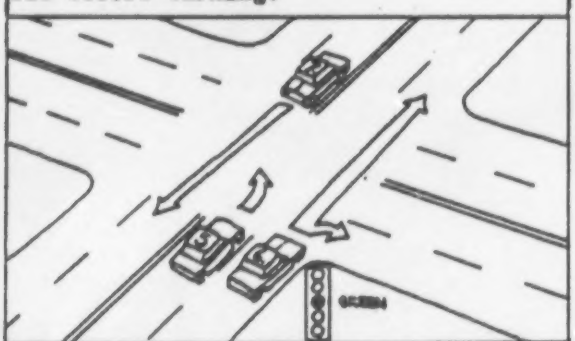
Green and Yellow Arrows Control Left Turns

Used with Steady Green Light



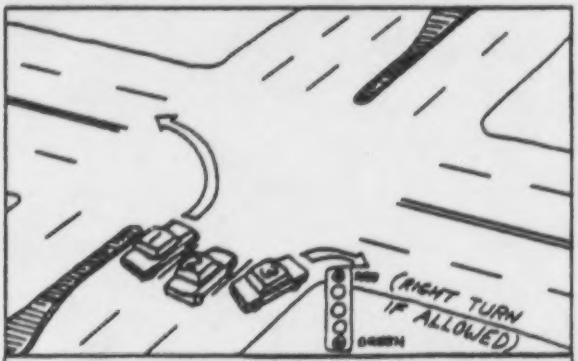
Car 1 can turn left freely because oncoming traffic is stopped. Car 2 can go straight or turn right.

Car 3 can finish the turn started. If yellow arrow goes off before Car 4 gets into the intersection to turn left, Car 4 must stop and yield to oncoming traffic before turning.

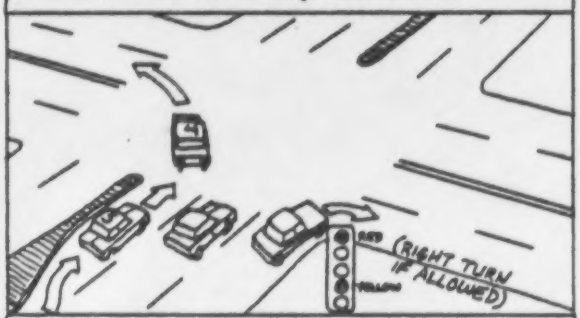


Now that the yellow arrow is off, Car 5 must yield to oncoming traffic (Car 7) before turning left. Car 6 can go straight or turn right.

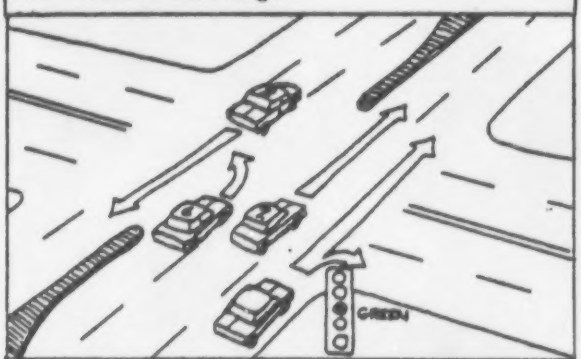
Used with Steady Red Light
(In example, note extra left turn lane.)



Car 1 can turn left freely without stopping if the intersection is clear. Both Cars 2 and 3 must stop. Car 2 must wait for the green light. Car 3 may turn right on red (after yielding), if this turn is not prohibited.

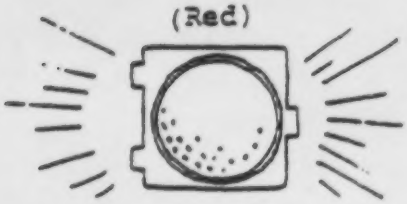


Car 4 can finish the turn started. If yellow arrow goes off before Car 5 gets into the intersection to turn left, Car 5 must stop and yield to oncoming traffic before turning.



Now that the yellow arrow is off, Car 6 must yield to oncoming traffic (Car 8) before turning left. Car 7 can only go straight.

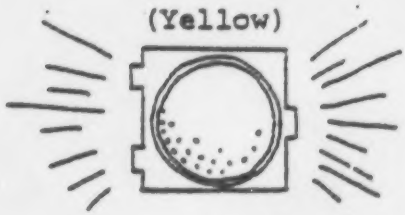
Flashing Red and Yellow Lights



A flashing red light means the same thing as a stop sign. You must make a full stop and yield the right-of-way.

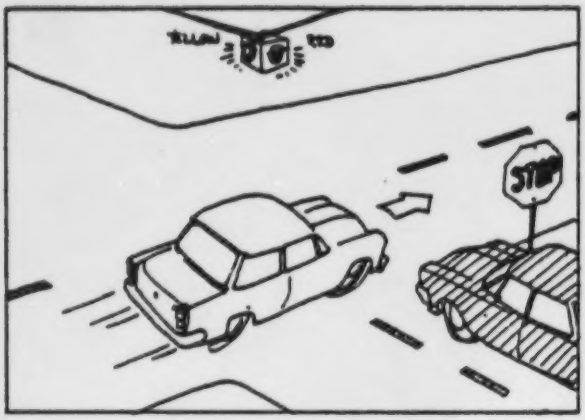
Sometimes the flashing red light will be used at dangerous intersections or places (see page 78). You will see it at busy intersections along with a stop sign. It will be used at places where a stop sign is hard to see. It is used at dangerous intersections where there is not enough traffic to have a regular signal light. And it is used instead of a traffic signal light early in the morning when there is too little traffic to turn on the red, yellow, and green signal lights. It will be at school crossings. And it is used on school buses which have stopped to pick up or drop off children (see page 125).

Also, it is used at railroad crossings to warn of an approaching train. When the lights flash, you must STOP! Never try to beat the train!



A flashing yellow light means you may go, but you must go slowly and carefully.

It is used at dangerous intersections. You will also see it at other dangerous places like bad curves or school zones. It may warn of a place where fire trucks come out of the fire station. Or it may be on cross streets where the other traffic has a flashing red light.



You have the stop sign and the flashing red light. You must stop at the intersection. The traffic on the cross road does not have to stop. It has a flashing yellow light which tells drivers to go carefully through the intersection.

Pedestrian Walk Signals

You will see these walk signals on many traffic signal lights. They are shaped like rectangles. These white and orange signal lights tell a pedestrian when to cross and when not to cross the street at an intersection.

flashing or steady white — Pedestrians may leave the curb to cross the street.

flashing orange — Pedestrians must not leave the curb to cross. But if they are already in the intersection when this sign flashes, they may finish crossing.

steady orange — Pedestrians must not leave the curb.

Lane Signals

Lane signals are sometimes used on freeways or expressways or streets with many lanes. The signals will be hanging over each lane of traffic. They are most often used when the traffic in several of the lanes changes directions at different times of the day.

In the morning, there will be more cars going into the city, so more lanes will be marked with a green arrow or X for traffic going into the city. In the afternoon, most traffic is going out of the city. Then more lanes will be marked with a green arrow or X for traffic going out of the city.

Look for one of these over your lane:

(Red)

A red X means you must never drive in the lane under this signal.

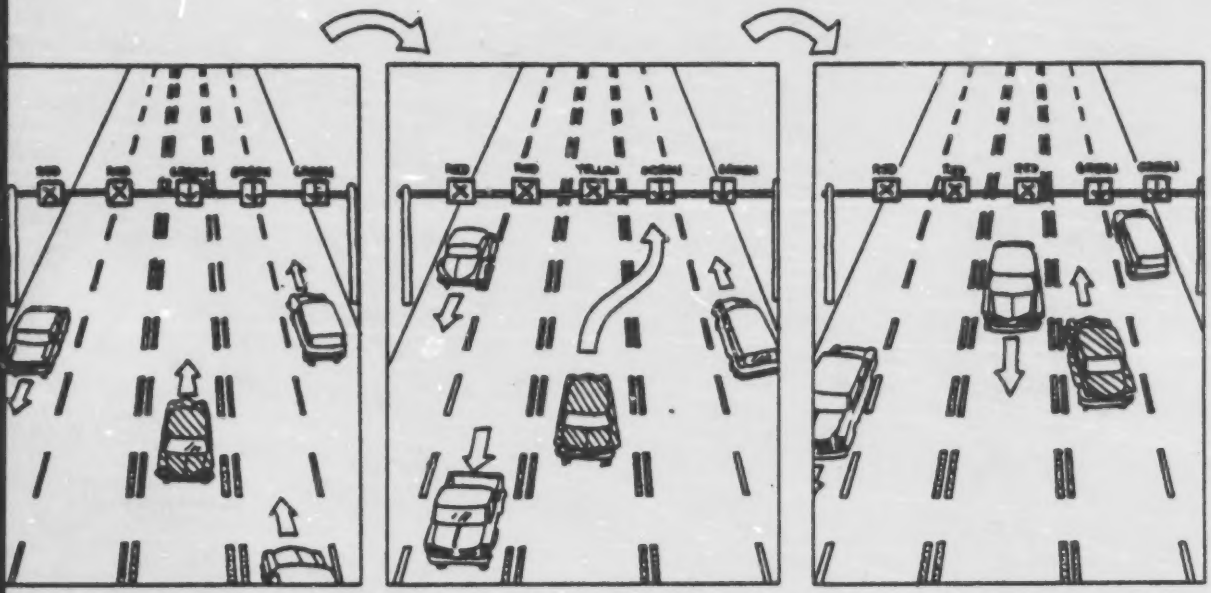
(Yellow)

A yellow X means your signal is going to change to red. Get ready to leave this lane before the red X comes on.

(Green)

A green arrow or X means you may drive in lanes under this signal. But you must also follow all other signs and signals. The green arrow is used in Illinois. You may see the green X in other states.

Look how lane signals are used with the changeable (reversible) lane. Start at the left of this page to see how to use these lanes. Notice the road markings for the changeable (reversible) lanes. Such changeable lanes are marked by pairs of yellow dashes on each side of the lane.



At this time you may drive in the center lane. You have the green arrow.

Now you have the yellow X. Soon it will change to a red X. You must soon leave this lane and move into a lane with a green arrow.

Now there is a red X over the center lane. You must not drive in the center lane. It is for traffic going the other way.

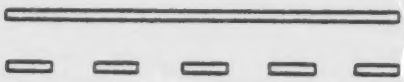
You have studied the important signal lights that direct you when you drive. Pavement markings help you, too. Read on to learn about them.

PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Pavement markings are the lines and other markings painted on road. They are very important. They help you know what kind of road you are on. They help you know where to drive on the road. And they warn you about some things that you are coming up to.

Here are some of the different lines that are used for pavement markings:

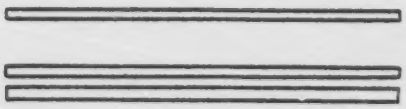
They can be solid (a long line without any breaks in it). Or they can be broken (dotted).



Solid line

Broken or dotted line

They can be single lines (1 line) or double lines (2 lines).



single line (1)

double lines (2)

They can be white lines or yellow lines.

white line

yellow line

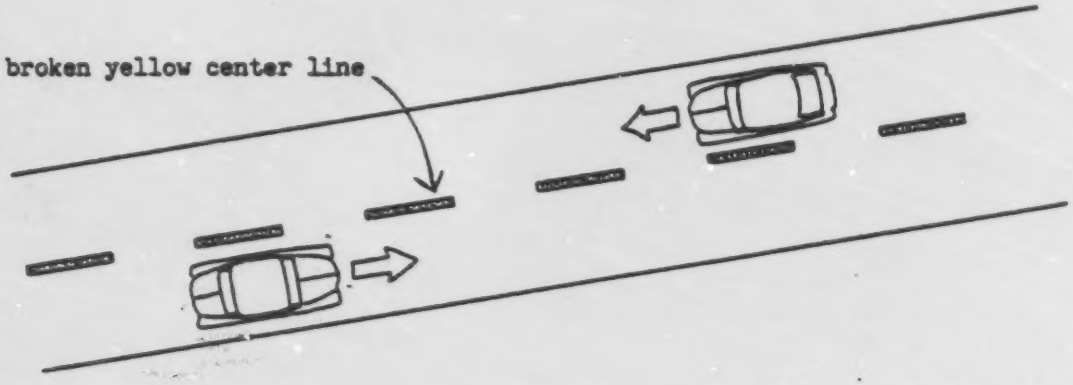
Now look at the way these lines are used for different roads and places:

2-way roads, 2 lanes
2-way roads, 4 or more lanes
1-way roads
intersections

2-way roads, 2 lanes

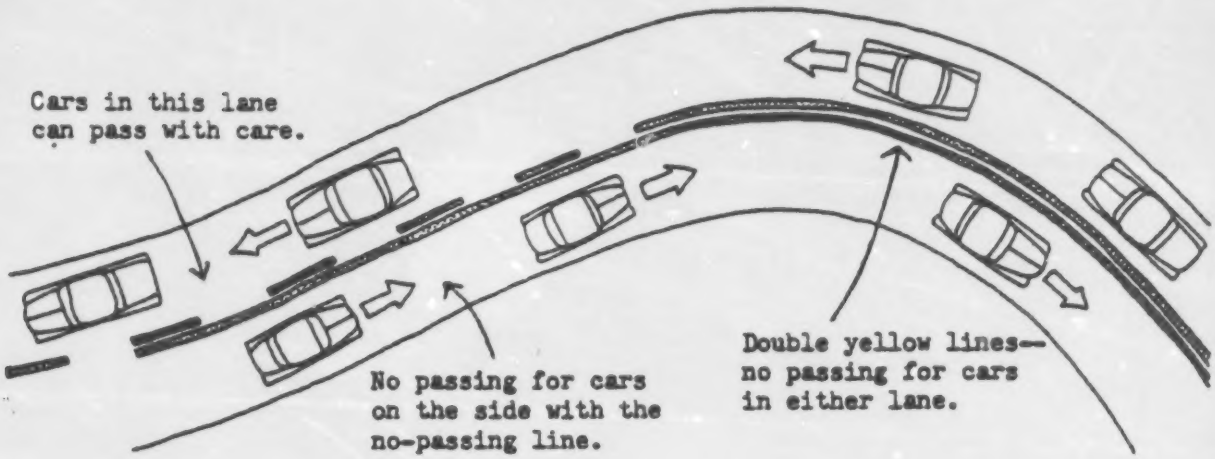
Think of 2-way roads first. On 2-way roads, traffic is moving in two different directions. So you must have a center line. The center line separates the traffic moving in opposite directions. Center lines are always yellow lines. Whenever you see a yellow line or lines in the middle of the road, you know you are on a road with 2-way traffic.

On 2-lane, 2-way roads, there is only one lane for traffic going in each direction. The center line on these roads is a single (1), broken yellow line.



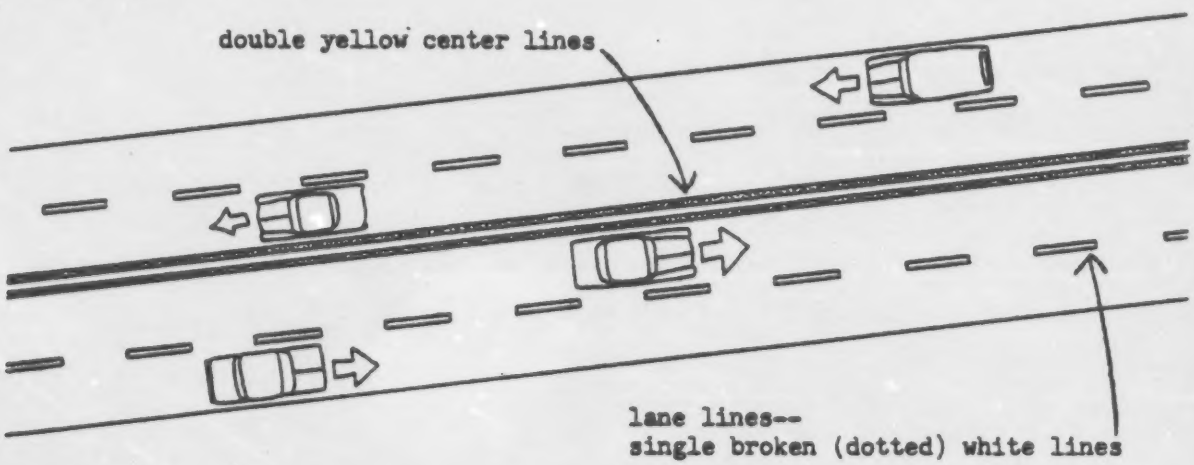
Sometimes you will see a single solid yellow line on one side of the broken yellow center line. This is a "no-passing" line. If the single solid yellow line is on your side of the center line, you are in a no-passing zone. You must not cross the yellow lines to pass another car. If the yellow no-passing line is on the other side of the center line, the cars in the other lane must not pass. You can pass if it is safe.

If it is not safe for cars in either lane to pass on a 2-lane road, there will be double solid yellow lines in the center of the road. (For more information on passing, turn to page 108.)



2-way roads, 4 or more lanes

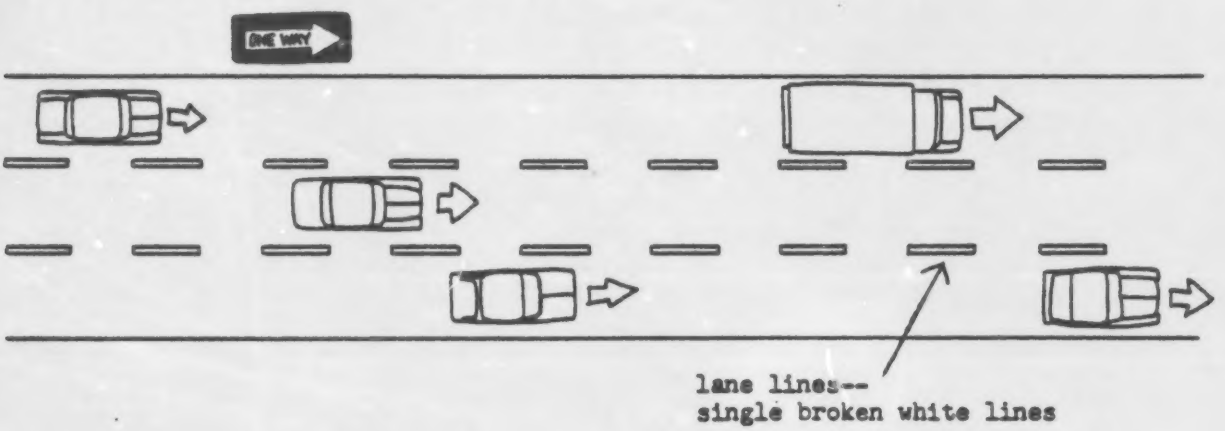
Now look at 2-way roads that have 4 or more lanes, with at least 2 lanes of traffic going in each direction. On these roads, the center lines are double solid yellow lines. You can cross these double yellow lines only to make a left turn off the road or onto the road.



When there are 2 or more lanes of traffic going in the same direction, the lanes must be marked. Lane lines are used to divide traffic moving in the same direction. The lane lines are single, broken white lines. You should stay within one lane unless you are changing lanes or turning.

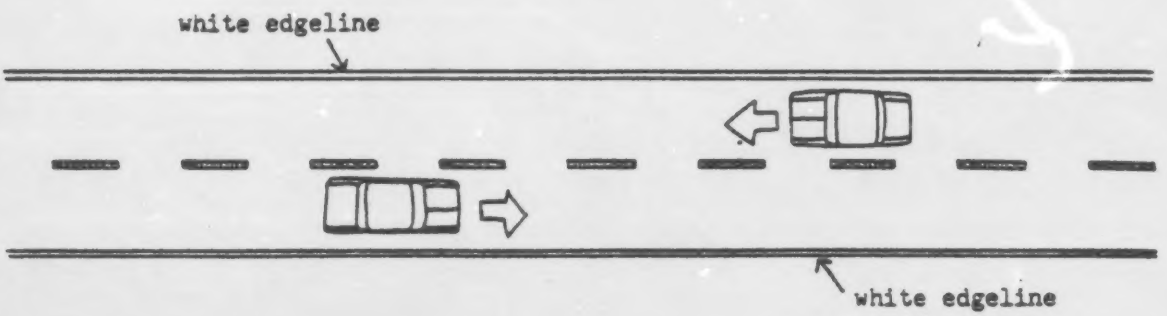
1-way roads

On a 1-way street, all the traffic is going in the same direction. That's why you won't see any yellow center lines on 1-way streets. But you will see broken white lane lines to separate the traffic moving in the same direction.

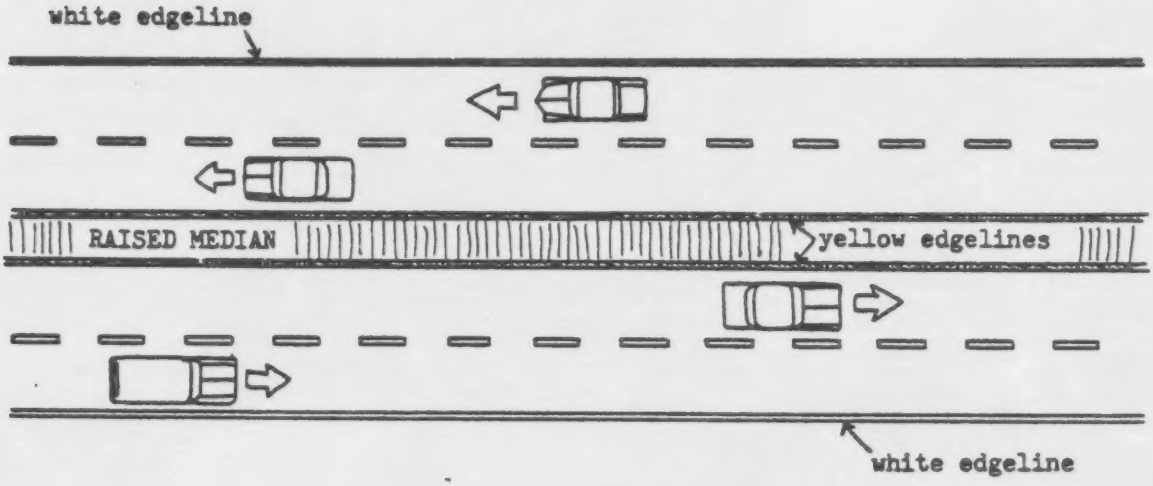


Edgelines

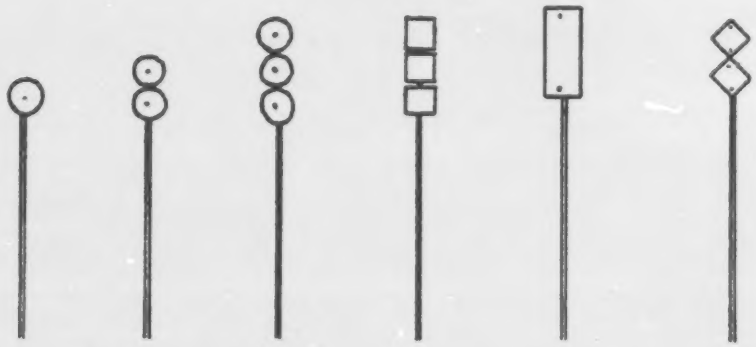
At each edge (side) of most roads, you will see a single solid white line. This line is called an edgeline. Edgelines are especially useful at night because they help you to see the edge of the road. They show you where the pavement ends so you won't go off the road.



Sometimes you may drive on an expressway or divided highway with land or raised medians in the center. Then you may see a yellow edgeline on the left side of the road.

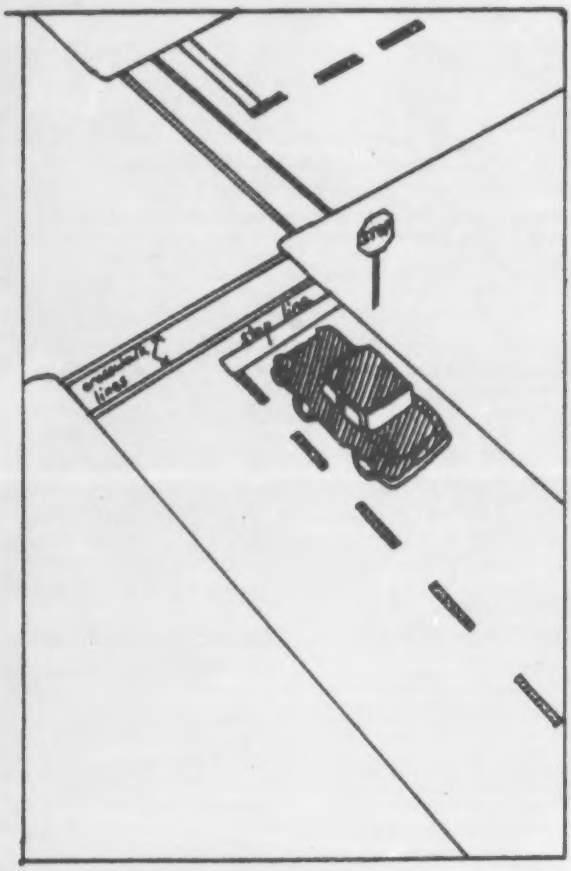


In addition to edgelines, you may see little reflectors all along the edge of the roadway. These reflectors also outline the edge of the road in the dark. The reflectors may be white or yellow. They are the same color as the nearest edgeline.



Intersections

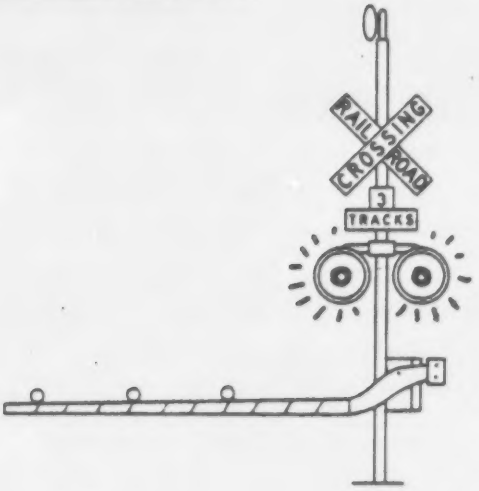
Here are some pavement markings that you will often see at intersections with stop signs or signal lights:



The 2 solid white lines that go across the road are <u>crosswalk lines</u>. These lines show where the pedestrian crosswalk is. When pedestrians are in the crosswalk, they have the right-of-way over cars. (Not all crosswalks are at intersections. Sometimes you may see crosswalks in the middle of the block.) The big thick white line going halfway across the road is the <u>stop line</u>. It is usually about 4 feet before the cross-walk. It shows drivers to the right of the center line exactly where to stop. The stop line may not be right at the stop sign or signal light.

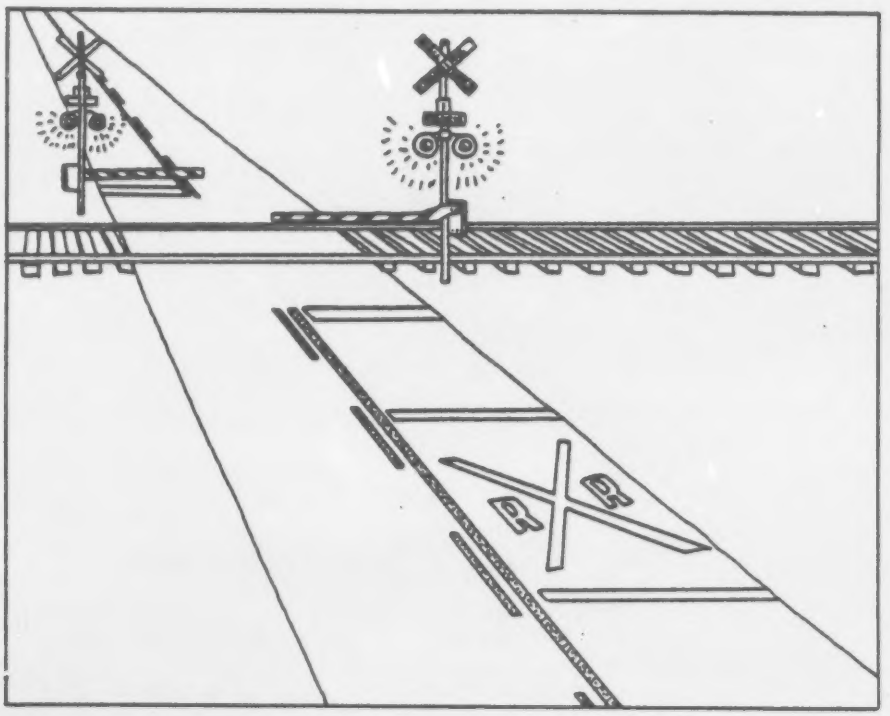
When you have to stop at an intersection with a stop sign or signal light, where do you stop? If there is a white stop line, stop at the stop line before entering (driving into) the intersection. If there are crosswalk lines but no stop line, stop <u>behind the crosswalk</u>. If there is no stop line or crosswalk, stop before entering the intersection where you can best see the traffic.

Railroad Crossings



You always see the crossbucks when you drive up to a railroad crossing. There may be flashing red lights and gates, too. You may also see special pavement markings.

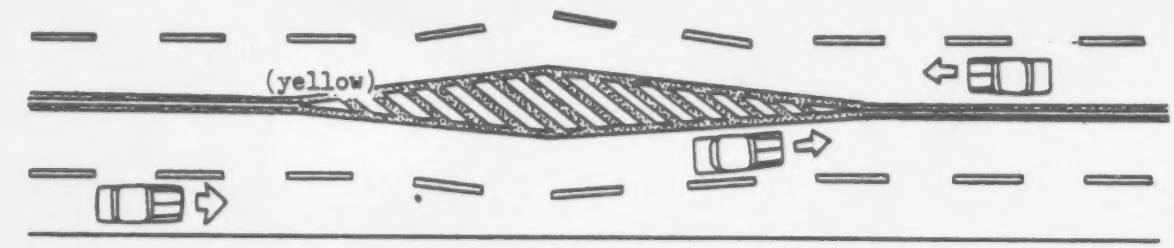
Before the crossing, the road is often marked with a large white X and 2 R's. The single solid yellow line is painted the entire distance to warn drivers in the right lane(s) not to pass. There may also be a white stop line painted on each side of the track.



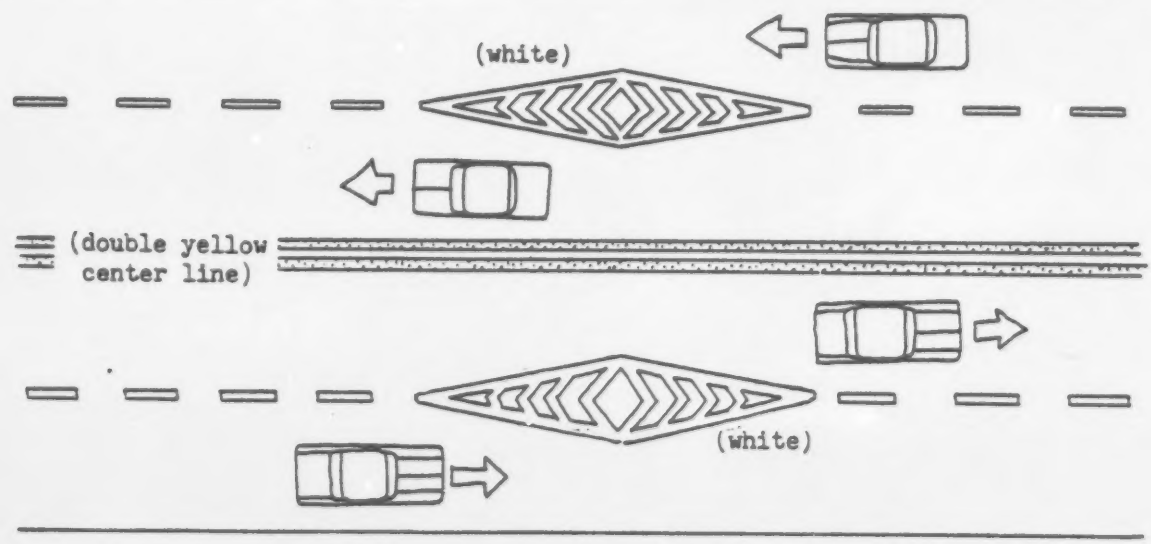
Sometimes there are obstructions (things that can block traffic) in the road, or places where the road divides. Drivers must be warned to go around these obstructions or places. So slanted (diagonal) lines are painted on the road to point them out and show drivers how to go around them.

If the obstruction or division is in the center of the road, you will see yellow slanted lines around it. If it is on one side of the road, blocking or dividing traffic going in the same direction, you will see white slanted lines around it.

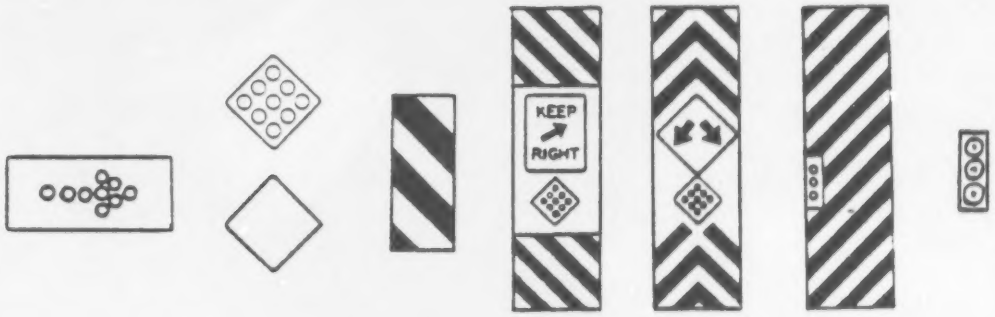
Obstruction in the center of the road:



Obstruction in a lane of the road:

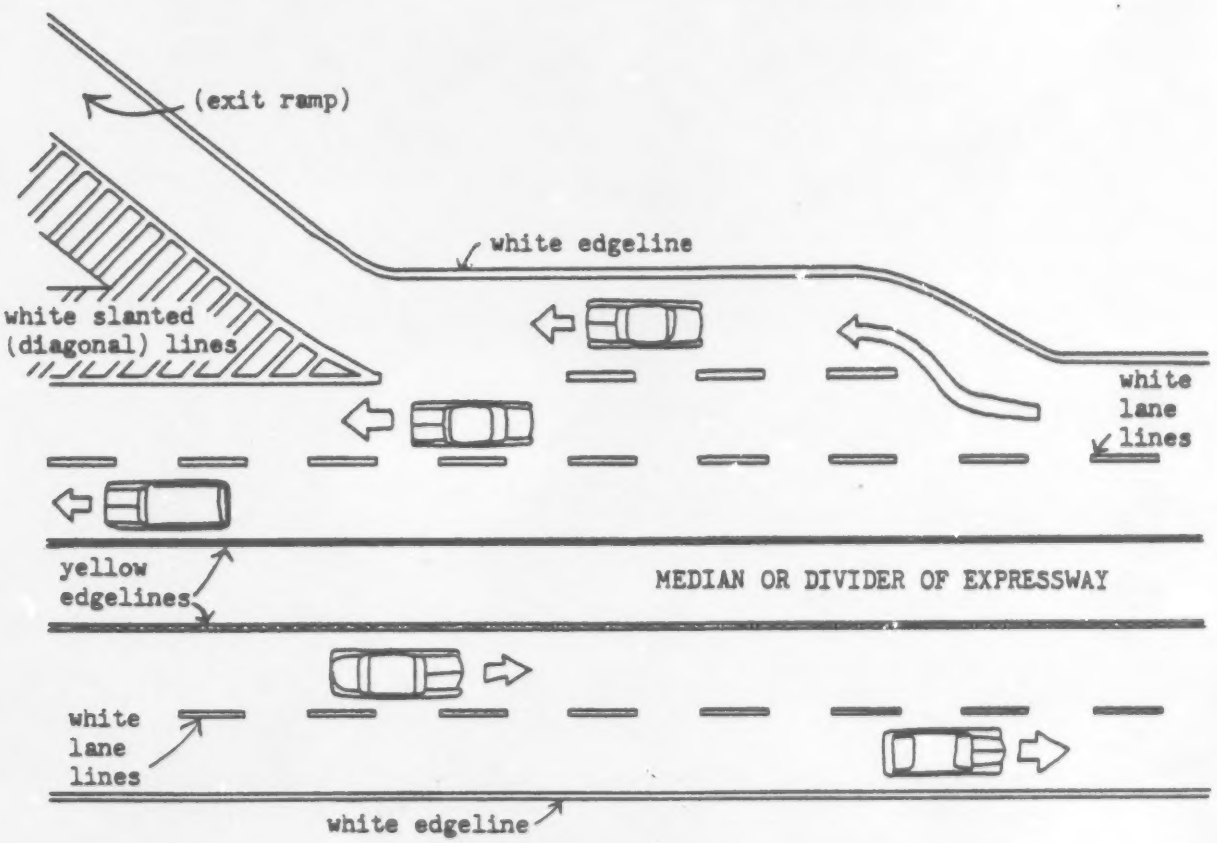


Also, markers in different shapes and sizes are put on things that obstruct or divide the road. These markers help drivers go around these things. The markers can be seen at night. Some of them flash or blink.



You know how many different pavement markings are used. Now look at how they can be used together in places like these:

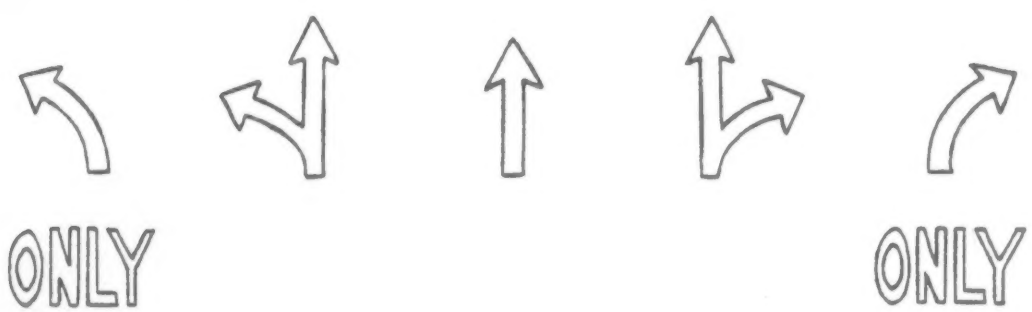
Pavement markings guide you when other roads join your road or leave your road.



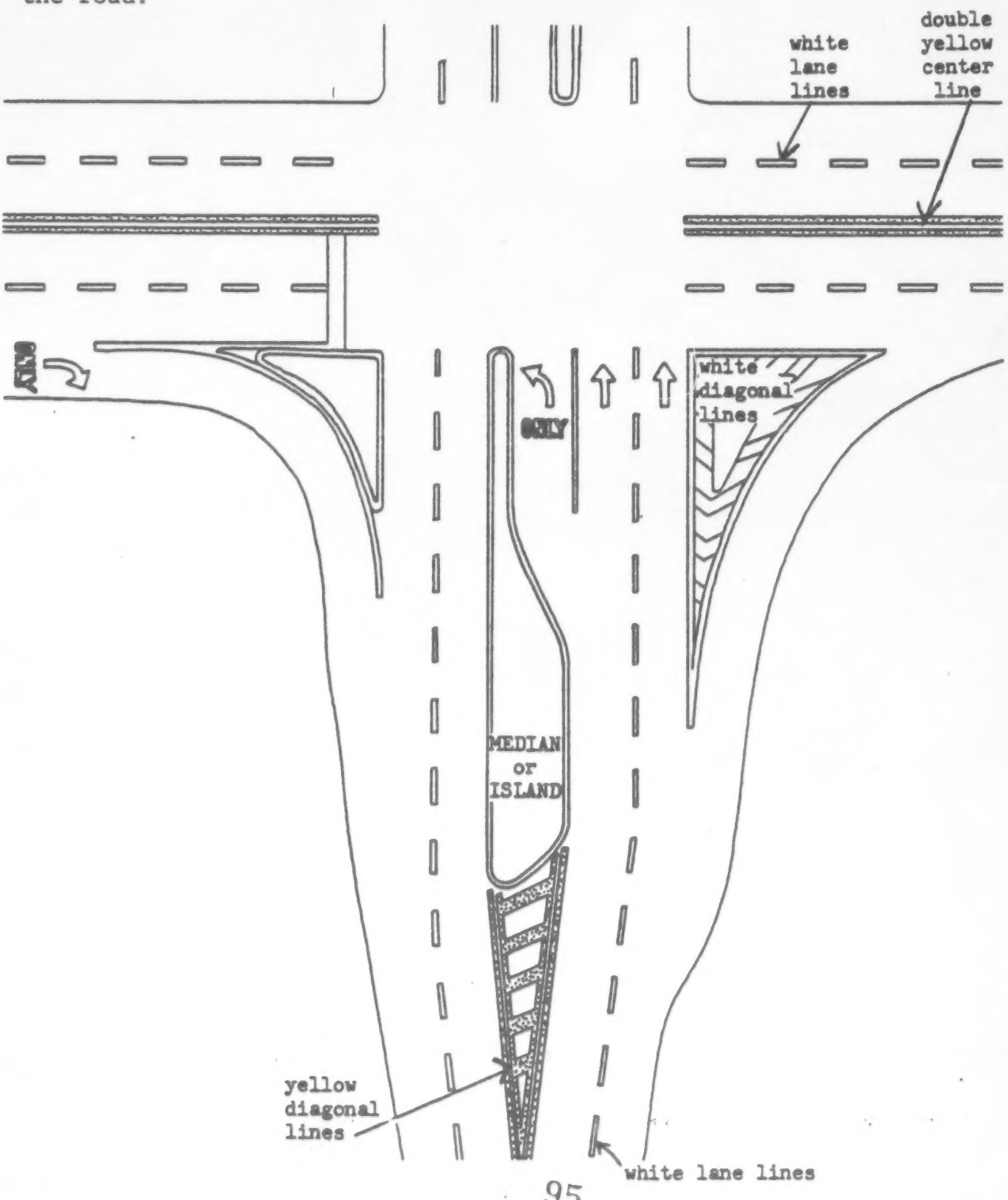
Pavement markings guide you when your road becomes wider or narrower. This might happen when a road adds some lanes for turning. In the example on the next page, a lane for left turns only and one for right turns only is added. These lanes might also have signs like these at the start of the lane and in the intersection:

As you look at the picture on the next page, notice some new pavement markings in some of the lanes. There are white arrows to show the way you must turn in each lane. These markings tell you that you can:

turn left only	turn left or go straight	go straight only	turn right or go straight	turn right only



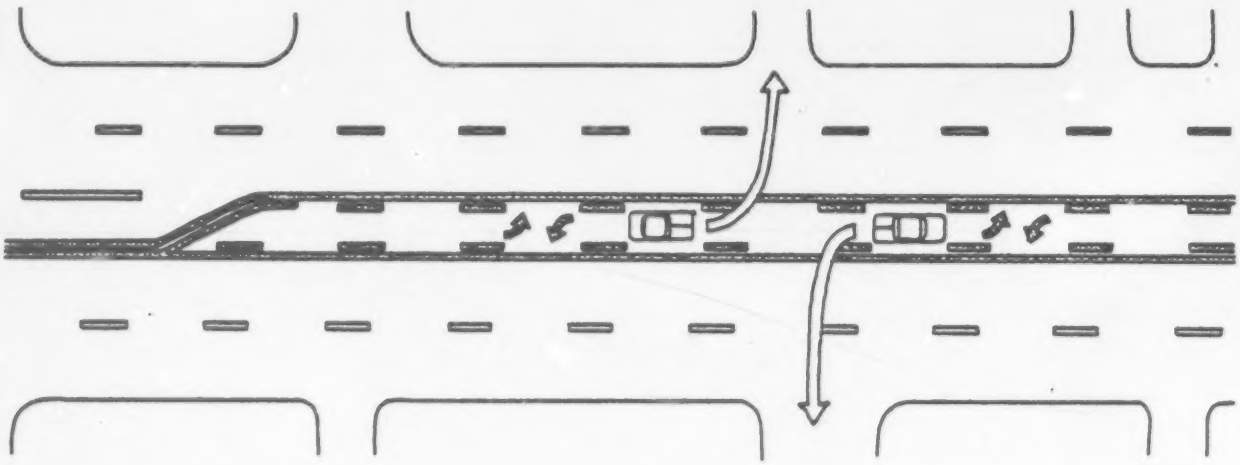
This is an intersection of two roads, and each road has several lanes. There is a traffic island or divider and some added lanes for turning. Many markings guide you--center lines, lane lines, edgelines, diagonal (slanted) lines, and white arrows painted on the road.



Pavement markings are also used to mark special kinds of roads, such as roads with reversible center lanes (see page 80) and roads with the 2-way left-turn lane (see below).

Two-Way Left-Turn Lane

These pavement markings are for a two-way road with many lanes. The center lane, having solid and broken yellow lines and yellow turn arrows, is <u>not</u> a passing lane. It is <u>only</u> used for drivers turning left. Drivers going in either direction use this lane to make left turns.



You may also see special signs like these for the two-way left-turn lane.

Pavement markings are used in still other ways, too.

Sometimes words are painted on the road, like "BIKE XING," "SCHOOL XING," or "STOP." These markings are used along with the regular signs. When words are painted on the road, read them from near to far.

Some curbs are painted yellow to mark "no parking" places. You must not park next to those yellow curbs. White slanted lines may also mark "no parking" places.

As a driver you have signs, signals, and pavement markings to guide you. There are also <u>laws</u> to tell you what to do when you drive. Read on to learn about laws for yielding the right-of-way.

TRAFFIC LAWS--YIELDING THE RIGHT OF WAY

You have learned how signs, signals, and pavement markings help you know what to do when you drive. Now you will learn about some of the most important traffic laws you must obey.

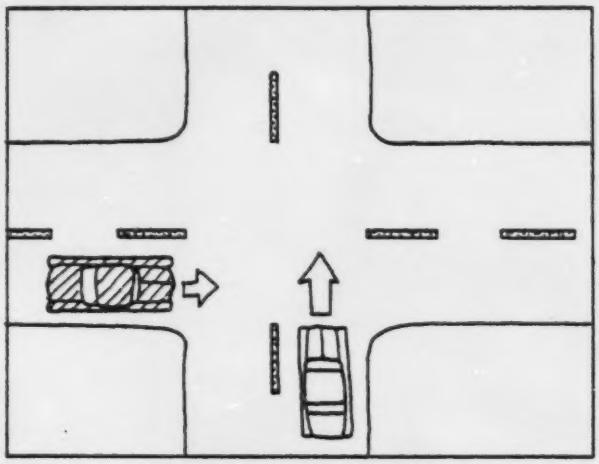
Traffic laws are for everyone, no matter what kind of vehicle a person is driving. Traffic laws are even for bicycle riders and pedestrians. We need traffic laws to prevent accidents and to protect people and property.

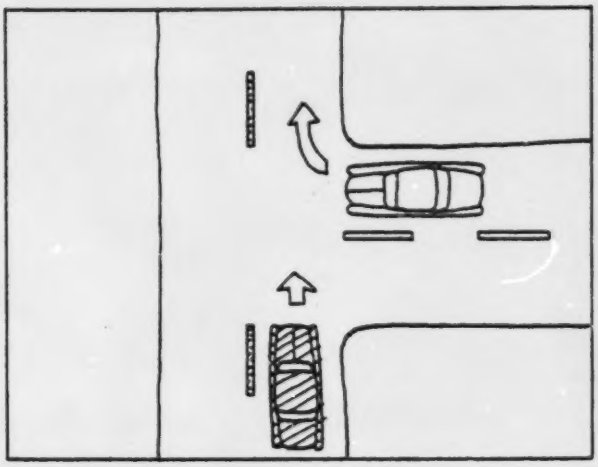
Remember these things: If you ignore a traffic law, or you don't do what it says, you break the law. And you can be punished for breaking the law. Only a police officer can tell you to do something that does not follow the signs, signals, or usual traffic laws. If a police officer tells you to do something, you must do it. If a police officer tells you to stop, and you try to get away from the officer, you may be fined or put in jail. You also break the law if you try to avoid a sign or signal by leaving the road and crossing private property.

The traffic laws that follow are rules for yielding the right-of-way. Remember that someone must yield the right-of-way when two or more people want to be in the same space at the same time. The person who yields gives up the right to go first. (S)he lets other drivers or pedestrians go before (s)he goes.

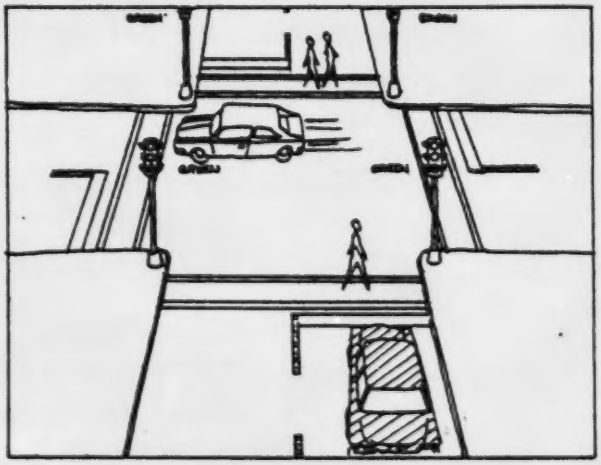
In the pictures you will see car(s) with stripes on them. In all the sections that have come before this section, the stripes have been used on cars that were obeying the signs and signals. Sometimes the drivers in those cars have yielded the right-of-way and sometimes not. <u>In this section only</u>, the stripes are used on cars whose drivers must yield the right-of-way. Now you will read about the most important rules for yielding the right-of-way.

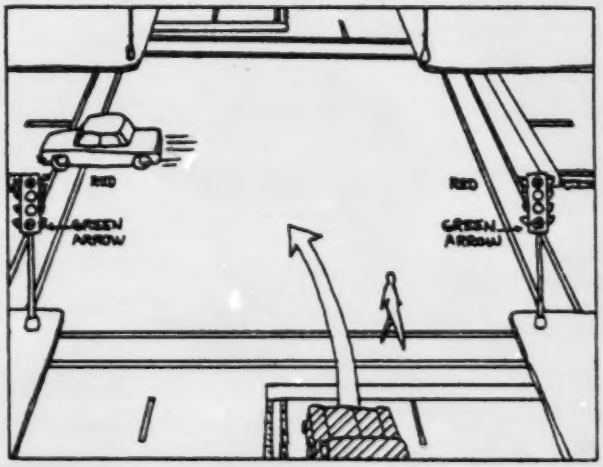
1. Sometimes 2 vehicles approach or enter an unmarked intersection from different roads at about the same time. (An unmarked intersection has no stop signs, yield signs, or traffic signals.) When this happens, the driver on the left must yield the right-of-way to the driver on the right. The driver on the right has the right-of-way.





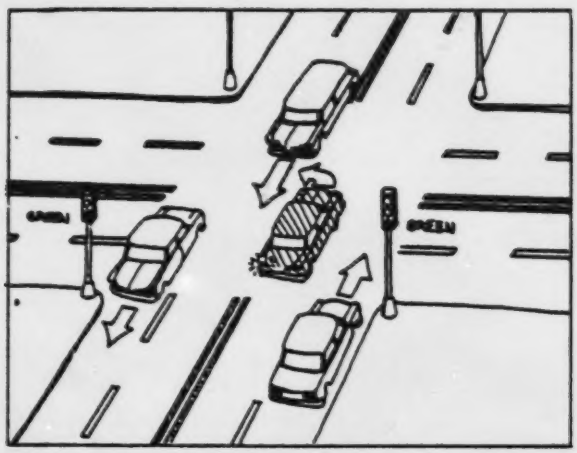
2. When a driver approaches an intersection with traffic signals (red-yellow-green lights, with or without arrows), (s)he must obey these signals. But even if a driver has the steady green light (which means go), (s)he may not be able to go right away. (S)he must first yield the right-of-way to all vehicles and pedestrians (traffic) within the intersection. A driver who makes a lawful left or right turn on a red light after a full stop must yield to all traffic in the intersection. And a driver who has a red light and a green arrow must yield to traffic in the intersection as (s)he turns.

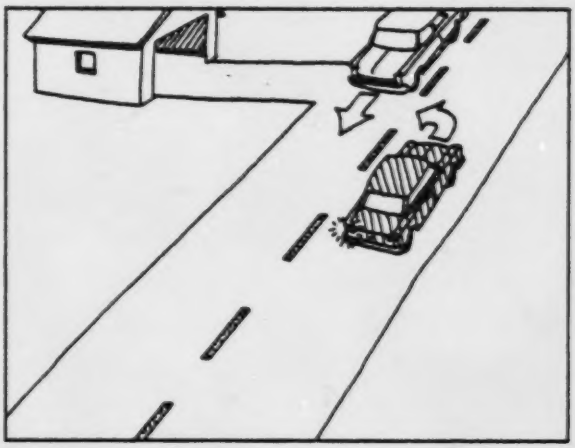


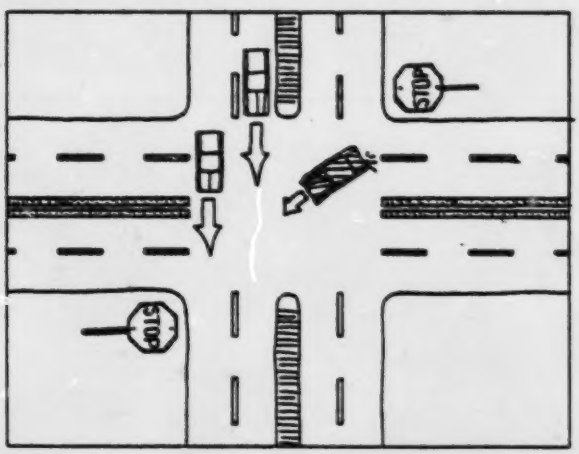


3. A driver who is turning left within an intersection, or into a driveway, alley, or off-street area, must yield the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic. (S)he may go ahead and make the turn only when it is safe (when traffic has cleared).

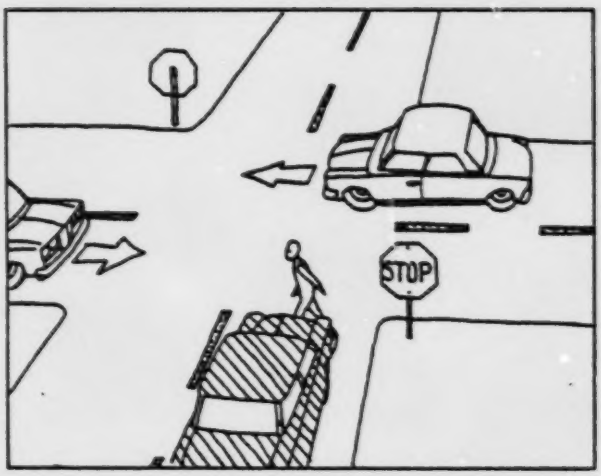
Sometimes a driver will still be in an intersection, waiting to turn, when the traffic signal light turns red. (S)he may finish his/her turn only when the traffic has cleared. Other traffic may not start through the intersection until (s)he is out of the intersection.



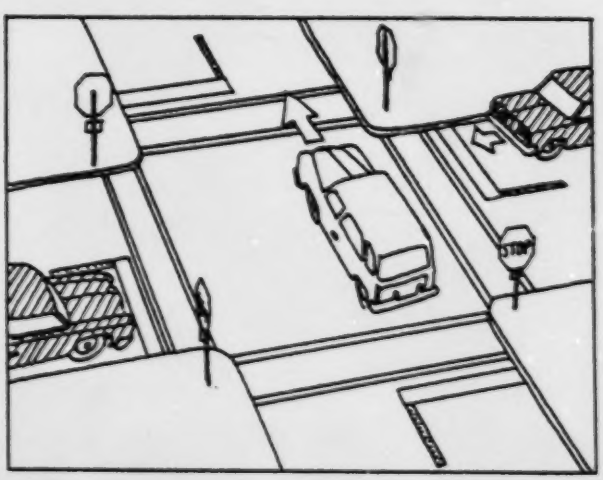




4. A driver who is approaching an intersection controlled by a stop sign or a flashing red light must yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians or vehicles approaching from another road. Of course the driver must make a full stop. But just stopping isn't enough--(s)he must also yield.

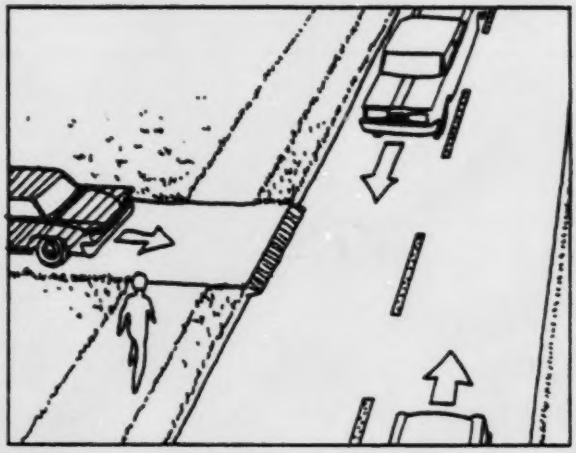


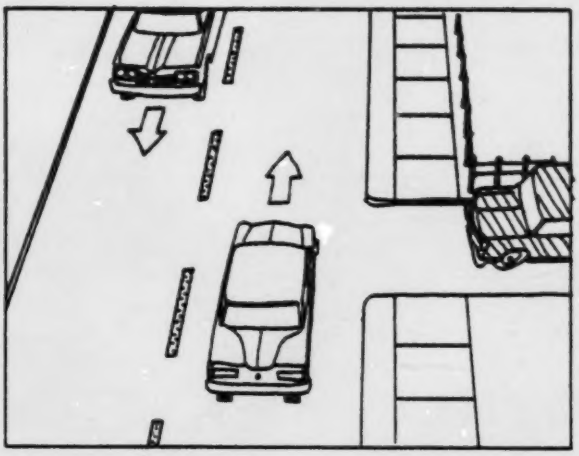
5. If more than one driver reaches a four-way stop intersection at almost the same time, the first one to stop should be the first one to go if it is safe. Then the other drivers should take their turns. Remember these things: Be polite. If another driver tries to take your turn, let him/her go. It is better to give up your turn than to have an accident. When it is your turn, take it; don't hold up traffic behind you.



6. When a driver approaches an intersection controlled by a yield sign, (s)he must slow down and be prepared to stop. (S)he must yield the right-of-way to vehicles and pedestrians within the intersection or approaching from another road.

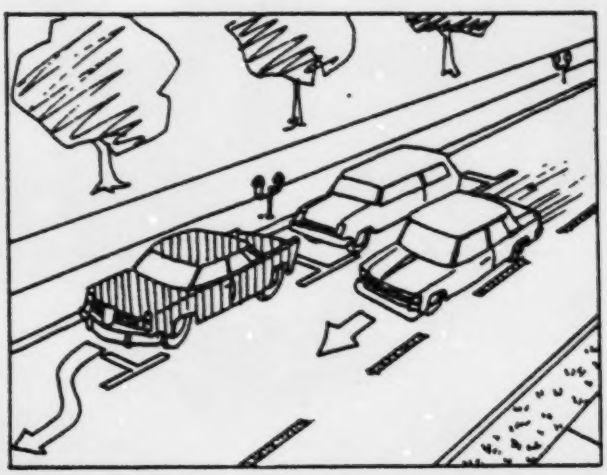
7. A driver who is entering the main road from an alley, driveway, private road, or smaller street must yield the right-of-way to all vehicles and pedestrians on the main road. The driver must not block crosswalks or sidewalks.



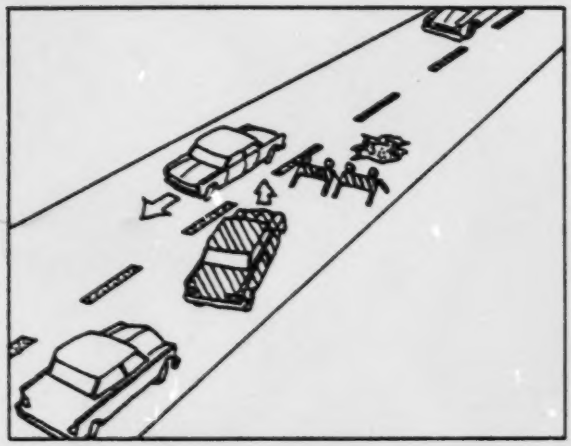


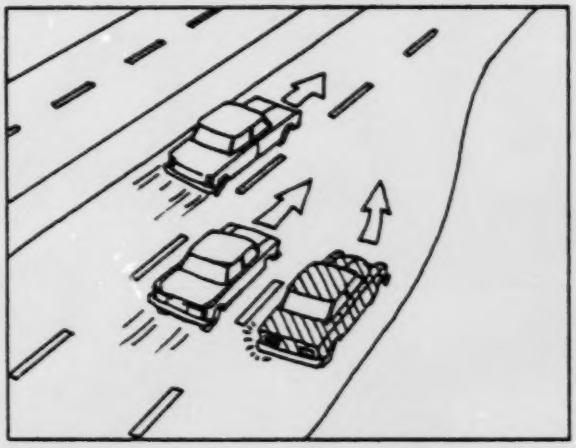
8. Wherever a ramp joins an expressway or highway, there will be a MERGE sign. Both the driver already on the highway and the driver entering the highway from the ramp will see this sign. Each driver must adjust his/her speed and position to keep from having an accident. This may mean yielding the right-of-way. (See pages 42-43.)

9. Drivers who are parked at the side of the road or off the road must be careful when they want to get back into the flow of traffic. They must yield the right-of-way to any traffic approaching them on the roadway. They must also signal before moving into traffic.

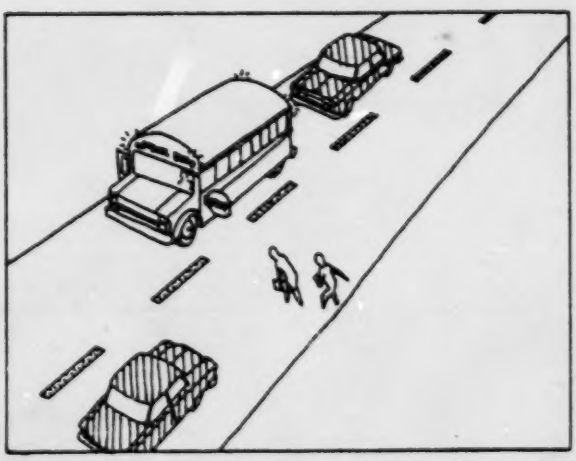


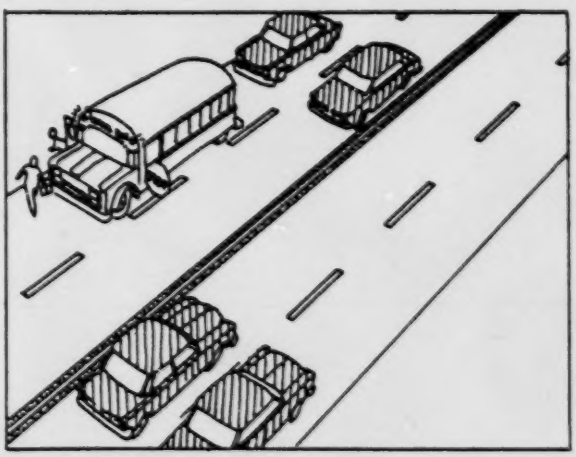
10. When a driver's lane is blocked (obstructed), or when it ends, (s)he must be careful as (s)he moves out of this lane. (S)he will have to change lanes or drive around the obstruction. (S)he may even have to cross into a lane of oncoming traffic. The driver must signal before moving into the other lane, and must yield the right-of-way to all traffic approaching in the lane (s)he is moving into.



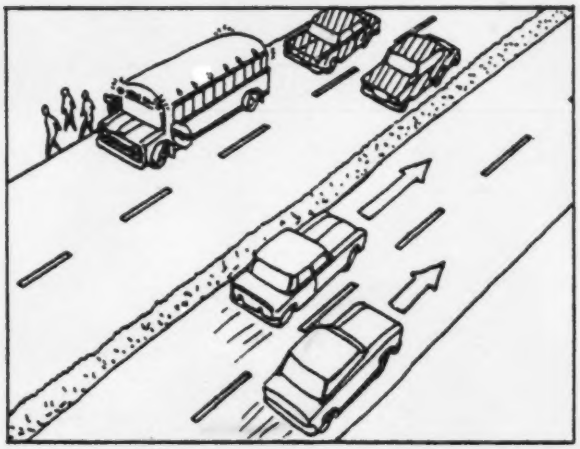


11. School buses loading and unloading children use flashing red lights and stop signs. When the bus has stopped to load or unload, all drivers <u>behind</u> the bus must stop. Drivers coming <u>toward</u> the bus must also stop, unless they are on a highway divided by some kind of median.



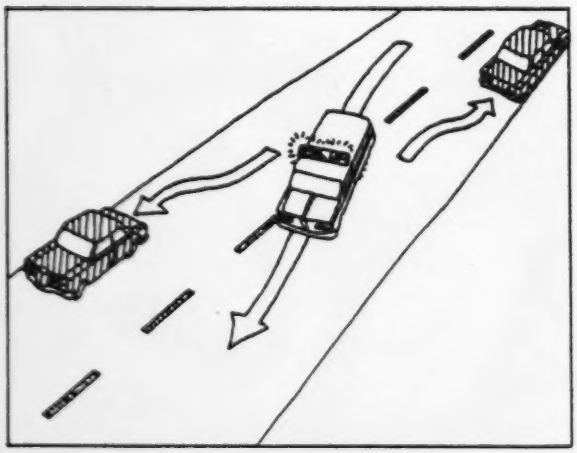


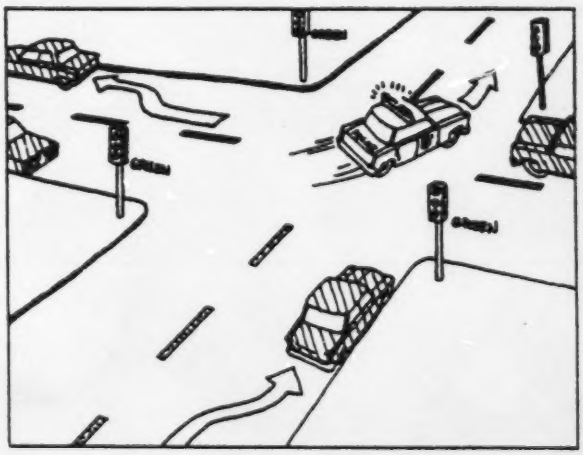
Cars coming from both directions must stop.



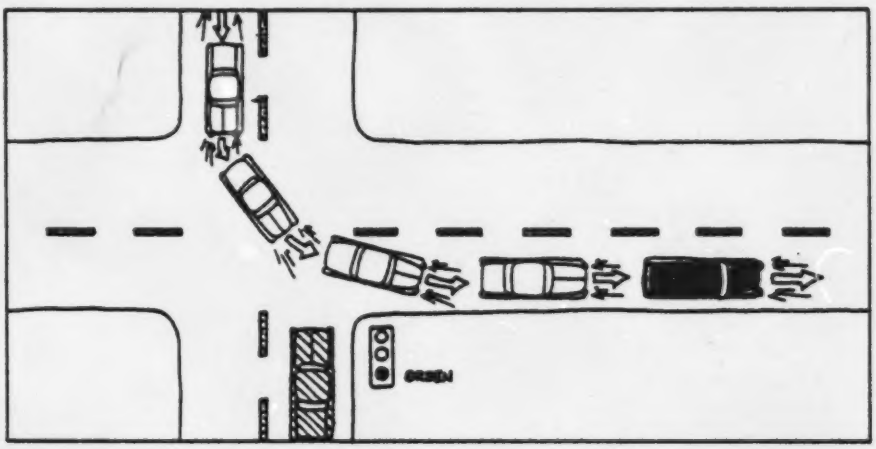
On a divided highway, only cars going in the same direction as the bus must stop.

12. Drivers must always yield the right-of-way to all police vehicles using <u>either</u> sirens or flashing lights. They must also yield to other emergency vehicles using <u>both</u> sirens and lights. On a 2-way street drivers must pull over to the right edge of the road and stop if they can. On a 1-way street, they must pull over to the nearest edge of the road. Drivers should stay there until the emergency vehicle has passed. They must never block intersections.





13. In a funeral procession, a line of cars with their headlights on follow a lead vehicle. The driver of this first vehicle must obey all traffic signs and signals. But when the lead driver has crossed an intersection, all the other drivers can follow along carefully without stopping. Drivers not with the funeral cars may pass them. But they can only pass if it is safe to do so.



14. There are many right-of-way rules about pedestrians that the driver must follow. Remember that the driver must yield to pedestrians when (s)he makes turns. (S)he must yield to pedestrians when (s)he stops at stop signs, flashing red lights, or yield signs. The driver must yield when (s)he enters a street from an alley, driveway, or smaller street. When a driver has the green light, (s)he must yield to pedestrians still in the crosswalk or walking with the green light or walk light.

A driver must also yield to pedestrians in a marked or an unmarked crosswalk when there are no traffic signals, or when the traffic signals aren't working. At an unmarked crosswalk there are no crosswalk lines on the street. But many pedestrians may cross there anyway.

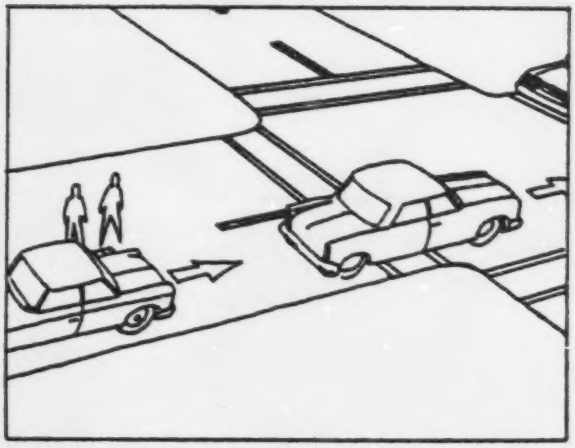
Pedestrians don't always have the right-of-way, however. There are some times when pedestrians must yield to drivers. But even though the pedestrian must yield at certain times, the law still says that the driver must watch for pedestrians at all times. And the driver must take care that (s)he does not ever hit a pedestrian. The driver must be especially careful of children, older people, handicapped people, or people who seem drunk, drugged, or confused (mixed up).

A pedestrian must yield the right-of-way to drivers when:

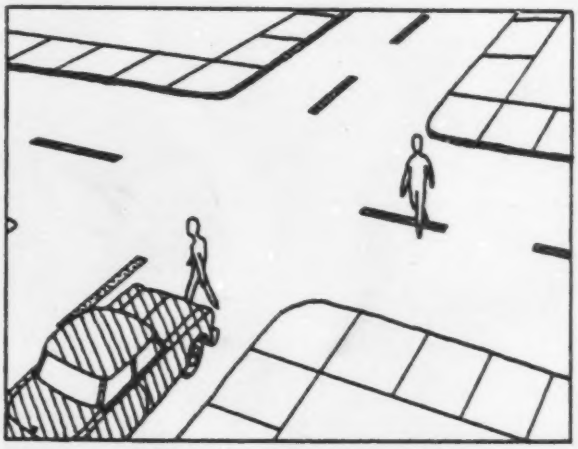
1. (S)he crosses the street at any place other than a marked or unmarked crosswalk. For example, a pedestrian who crosses in the middle of the block must yield to other traffic. Keep in mind that pedestrians are not allowed to cross between closely-spaced intersections that have signal lights.
2. The steady yellow signal light or the orange "Don"t Walk" light comes on. Pedestrians are then not allowed to start crossing the street. If they are already in the intersection, they may finish crossing.
3. (S)he crosses on the roadway instead of using a nearby pedestrian tunnel or overhead crossing.
4. (S)he sees emergency vehicles using flashing lights and/or sirens.

There are other things pedestrians must not do. Pedestrians must not leave the curb suddenly, or walk or run into the path of an approaching vehicle. Pedestrians must not cross an intersection at an angle unless they are directed to do so by a traffic control device. They must not pass around, over, under, or through any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad crossing or bridge if the barrier is closed or being opened or closed. They must not walk on the roadway if there is a sidewalk next to it. If there is no sidewalk, pedestrians must walk on the left side of the road. They should walk on the shoulder if there is one. If not, they must step off the pavement if a car is coming. They must not stand on the roadway to watch or guard a vehicle which is parked or being

parked. Also, pedestrians must not stand on or next to a roadway to ask for a job, do business, or ask drivers for money, unless the pedestrian is in a business or residential area. Finally, no drunk or drugged pedestrians are allowed on any highway in Illinois.

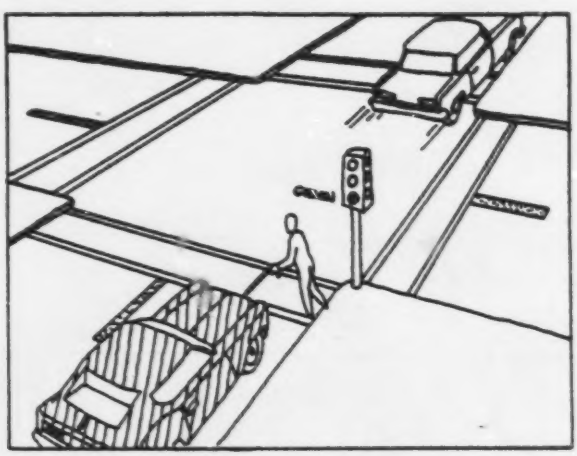


Pedestrians yield to drivers because they are not crossing at a marked or unmarked crosswalk.



Driver yields to pedestrians in marked and unmarked crosswalks (crosswalks with no signs or signals).

15. A driver must always come to a complete stop when (s)he approaches a blind person who is crossing a street or highway. The blind person will carry a white stick or cane, or (s)he will have a seeing eye dog. The driver must stop no matter what the traffic signs or signals say.



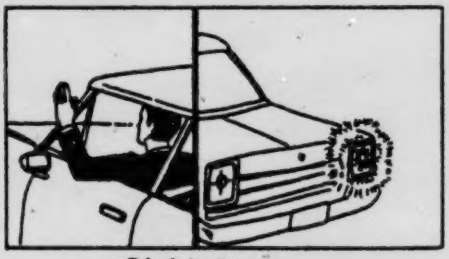
TURNING

Many accidents are caused by drivers who do not make turns the correct way. Make sure you are not one of these drivers! Remember these things about turning:

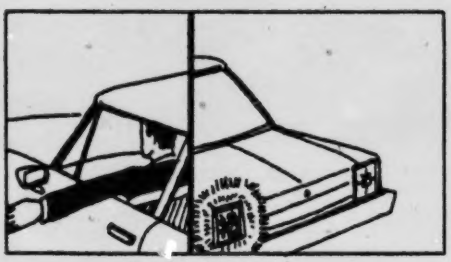
1. Make up your mind to turn before you get to the turning point. If you decide to turn at the last minute, you may not be able to do it safely.

2. As soon as possible, move into the correct lane to make your turn. The faster the traffic is moving, the sooner you should do this. Before you change lanes, look in your side and rearview mirrors. Check the traffic behind you and on both sides of you. And quickly look back to make sure there is no traffic in your blind spot (see page 113). Give a turn signal and then change lanes. Move into the lane closest to where you will turn.

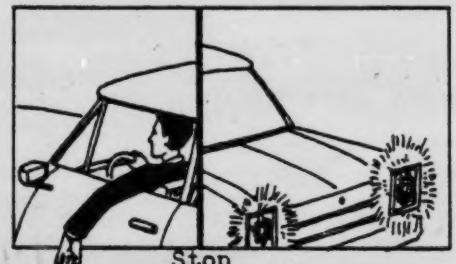
3. After you are in the correct lane, give a signal to show which way you are turning. You can signal with your hand and arm. Or you can signal with the electric turn signals on your car. (See both ways of signaling below.) In business areas or areas where people live, you must signal your turn at least 100 feet (about half a block) before turning. In other areas, you must signal at least 200 feet before turning.



Right turn



Left turn



Stop

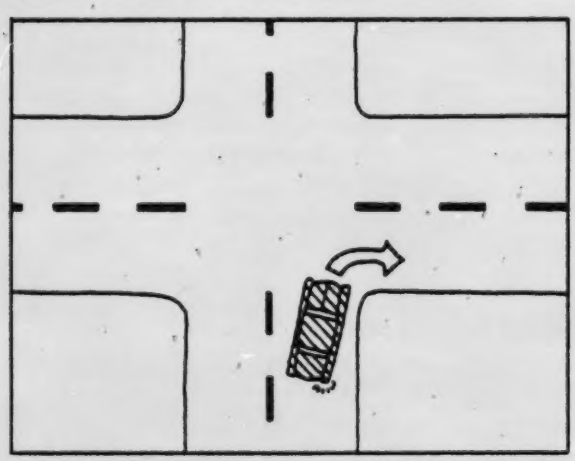
4. Slow down to a speed that is safe to make the turn.

5. Be sure it is safe to turn, and then make the turn carefully.

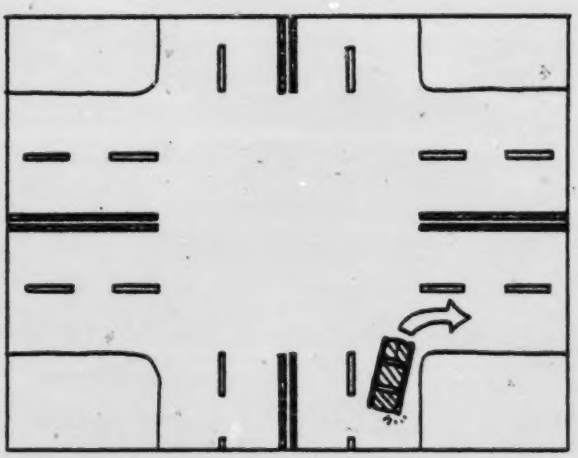
6. Finish the turn in the correct lane. Usually this is the closest lane you can turn into where traffic is going in the same direction you are.

Right Turns

Move into the farthest right-hand lane ahead of time, and stay close to the curb. Give a right turn signal well before turning. Make the turn so you will end up in the right lane of the street you turned onto. Do not make a wide swing into another lane--only vehicles that are very long or big should have to make these wide turns.



From a 2-lane road to a 2-lane road

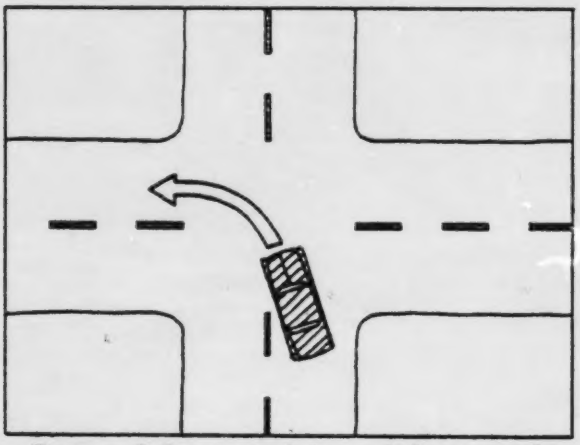


From a 4-lane road to a 4-lane road

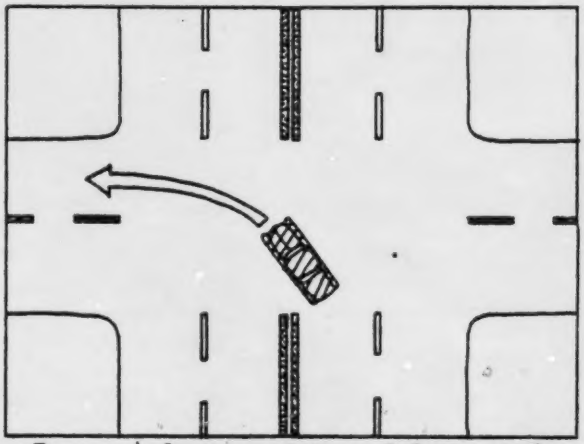
Left Turns

Move into the farthest left-hand lane which is open to traffic going in your direction. If there is a special left-turn lane, you must make your turn from this lane. (At some intersections you may see 2 lanes marked for left turns.) Give a left turn signal well before turning. Move into the intersection and yield the right-of-way to all traffic approaching from the opposite direction. Keep the wheels of the car straight until you start to turn. When it is safe, turn carefully. If an oncoming car in the intersection is also turning left, make your turn in such a way that

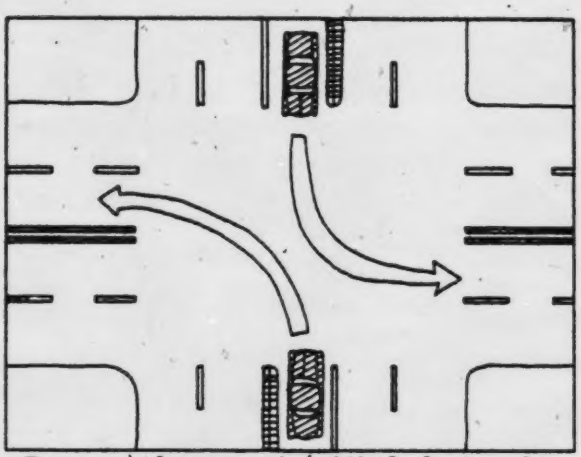
this car is on the right of your car. Turn into a lane where traffic moves the same direction as you are. The best lane to turn into is usually the lane just right of the center line.



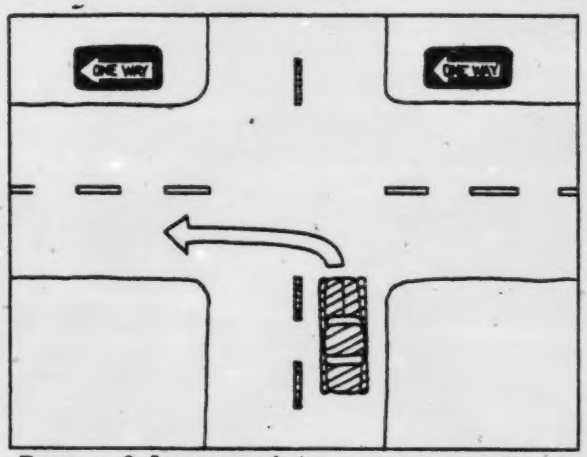
From a 2-lane road to a 2-lane road



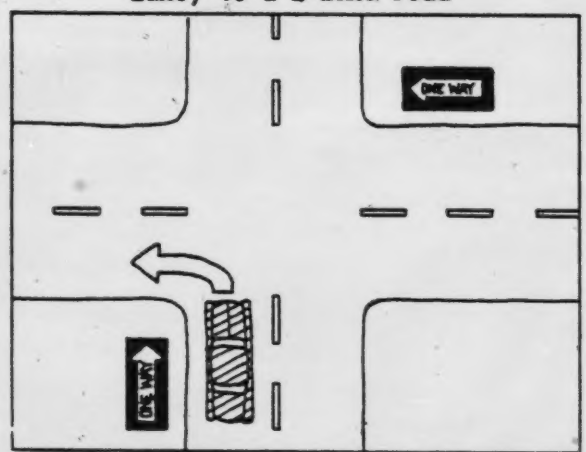
From a 4-lane road to a 2-lane road



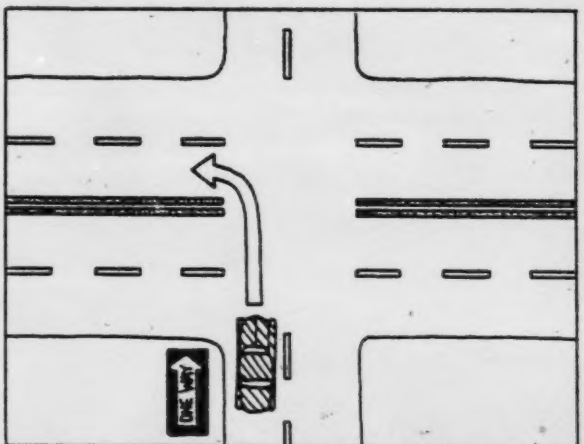
From a 4-lane road (with left turning lane) to a 4-lane road



From a 2-lane road to a one-way street



From a one-way street to a one-way street



From a one-way street to a 4-lane road

PASSING

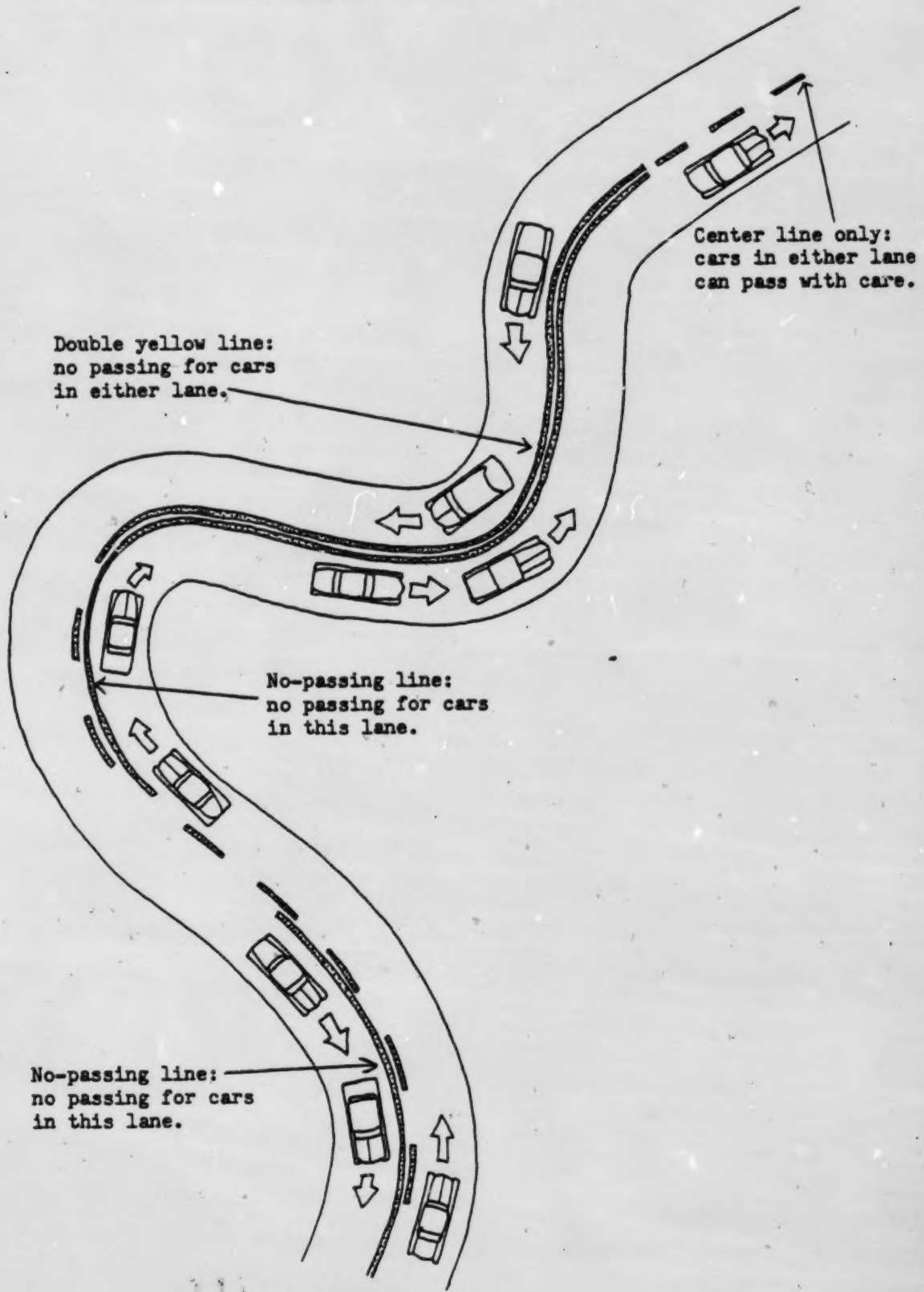
There are many places where passing other cars is prohibited (not allowed, against the law). It's often prohibited in places on 2-lane roads with traffic going both ways. It is more dangerous to pass on these 2-lane, 2-way roads. This is because you must cross over into the lane where traffic is coming toward you. You must pass the car ahead of you and get back in your own lane. You must finish passing before you get within 200 feet of any cars coming toward you.

So before you start to pass, you must be able to see far enough ahead in the left lane. You must check to see that you have enough time and enough room to pass the car and get back in your own lane. On many 2-lane roads, you cannot see very far ahead. This is especially true on hills and curves. So you may see signs and markings that warn you not to pass:

These signs tell you that you are in a no-passing zone, where you cannot pass other cars. The second sign is new. It looks like a pennant (flag), and it is yellow like most of the warning signs. You will see it on the left side of the road.

Usually you will also see a no-passing line on the road (see the picture on pg. 83 under Pavement Markings). This line is a single solid (unbroken) yellow line on one side of the yellow center line. (The center line is a broken yellow line.) If the yellow no-passing line is on your side of the center line, you must not cross over into the other lane to pass another car. If the yellow no-passing line is on the other side of the center line, the drivers in the other lane must not pass. You can still pass if it is safe. Sometimes it is not safe for drivers in either lane to pass on a 2-lane road. Then there is a double solid yellow line in the center of the road. No drivers are allowed to cross the double yellow lines to pass.

Passing on 2-lane, 2-way Roads



There are only two times when you can cross the no-passing lines. You can cross the no-passing lines to finish passing a car you started to pass before the beginning of the no-passing zone. And you can cross the no-passing lines when you make a left turn off the road or onto the road.

When you are at the top of the hill, or you come out of a curve, you may be able to see far enough ahead to know if you can pass. Watch for the end of the no-passing lines on the road. And you may see a sign like this. You won't see it until you can see far enough ahead to safely pass.

You can pass cars now, but only if it is safe to do it. You must only pass cars if you can pass them and get back in your lane before you get within 200 feet of cars coming toward you.

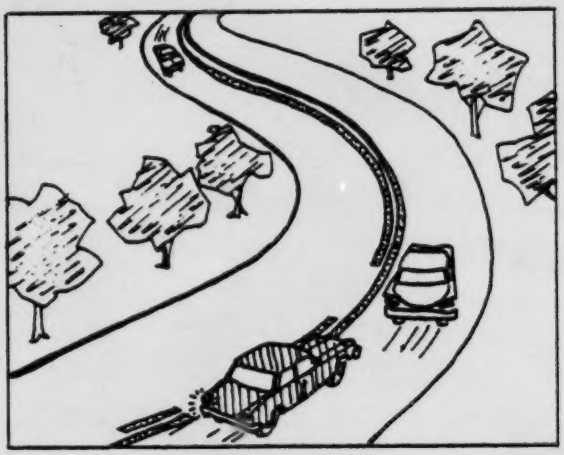
Besides hills and curves, there are other places on 2-lane roads where you must not pass:

You must not pass a car within 100 feet of a railroad crossing. At many railroad crossings, a single yellow no-passing line is painted on the pavement.

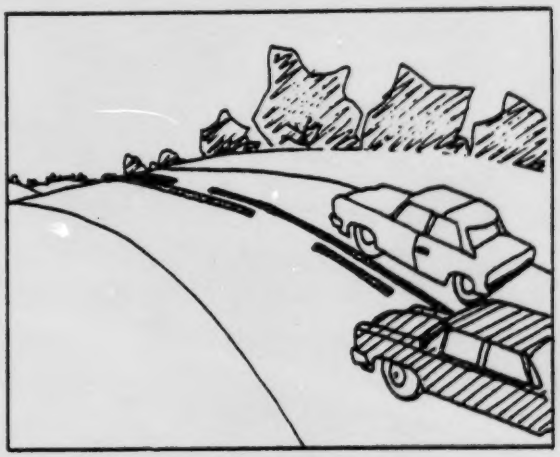
You must not pass a car within 100 feet of an intersection. If you do, you could cause an accident. This is because you could get in the way of traffic or pedestrians in the intersection.

Also, you must not pass a car within 100 feet of a bridge, viaduct, or tunnel if your view ahead is blocked. In these cases you may not be able to see oncoming traffic clearly. And you could have an accident if you had to change plans at the last minute.

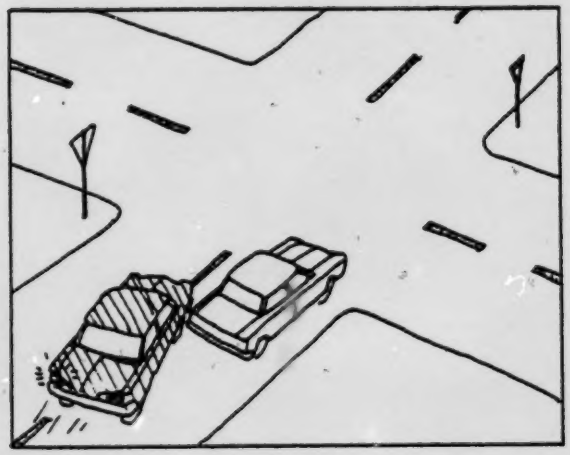
Do not pass ...



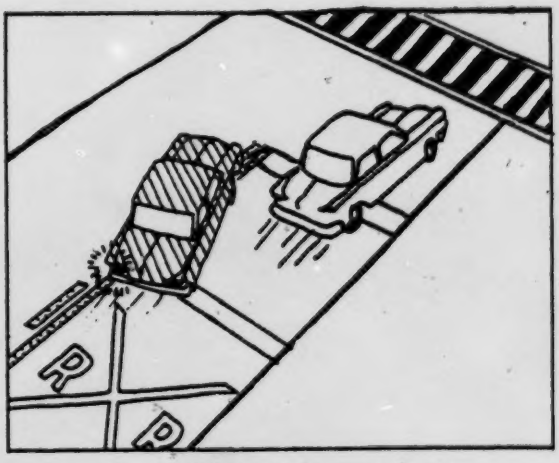
on curves



on hills

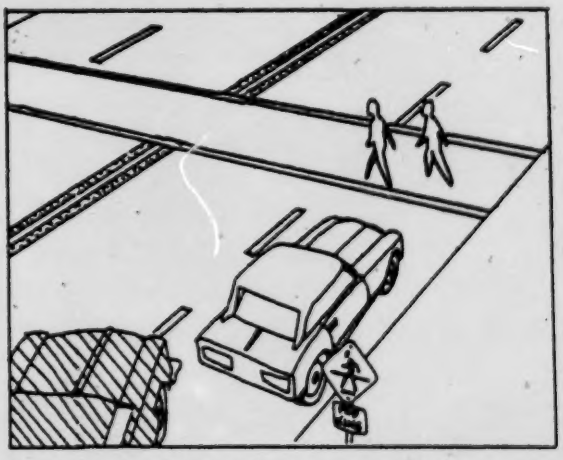


at intersections



at railroad crossings

on bridges, viaducts, or tunnels



at pedestrian crossings

To review, then, you must not pass on 2-lane, 2-way roads:

1. If there are "Do Not Pass" or "No Passing Zone" signs.
2. If the road is marked with single yellow no-passing lines on your side of the center line, or with double yellow lines.
3. Unless you can see far ahead in the left lane, and you can pass a car and get back in your own lane. You must finish passing before you get within 200 feet of a car coming toward you.
4. On hills and curves where you cannot see far enough ahead.
5. Within 100 feet of railroad crossings.
6. Within 100 feet of an intersection.
7. Within 100 feet of bridges, viaducts, or tunnels if your view ahead is blocked.

Also:

You cannot pass a car if the car is stopped at a crosswalk to let pedestrians cross. And you must never pass a car on a 4-lane road by driving to the left of the double yellow lines.

Where do you pass another car?

Usually you pass cars on the left. This is because slower cars should drive in the right lane, unless they are passing or turning left. Sometimes you can pass on the right, though, if:
1. You are on a 2-lane road, you are passing a car that is making a left turn, and you have room, or
2. You are at an intersection where the road is wider for passing, or
3. You are on a 1-way street, or on a 2-way street with at least 2 lanes going in the same direction.

You must never pass on the shoulder of the road. And you must never drive off the pavement or the main road to pass.

Remember these things when you are passing the car ahead of you on the left:

1. Before you change lanes, look in your side and rearview mirrors. Check the left lane behind you to make sure no cars are coming up near you in this lane. Quickly look back to make sure there is no traffic in your blind spot! (Your blind spot is the place close to the back of your car that you can't see, even when you use your rearview mirror.) Finally, decide what you will do if something goes wrong when you pass, and you have to change plans.

2. Do not tailgate another car. (You "tailgate" a car when you follow it too closely.) Signal left while you are still well behind the car you are passing. You may want to alert the driver by sounding your horn. Move into the left lane.

3. Pass the car in the left lane. Remember, you should not go faster than the speed limit when you are passing the other car. Wait until you are well ahead of the car, until you can see all of the car you passed in your rearview mirror. Then signal right.

4. Move back into the right lane, well ahead of the car. Turn off your turn signal.

When another driver is passing you, you must let him/her pass if (s)he has sounded his/her horn. You must not speed up until the driver has finished passing you.

As the driver passes you, check the traffic coming toward you. Sometimes the driver passing you will need more room or more time to get back in the right lane. Slow down. This will help the driver get back in the right lane quickly.

It is against the law to flash your turn signals to tell another driver it is okay to pass.

SPEED

Speeding, or going too fast, may be dangerous by itself. But it can be a killer when the light or the weather is bad, when there is a lot of traffic, when the road or your car is in bad shape, or when you're not at your best for driving. The faster you go, the greater the chance of having an accident. And the faster you go, the worse the accident will probably be. If you are going very fast, you will have less time to see something dangerous ahead and to do something about it. It will take you longer to stop. You will be more likely to skid, roll over on a turn, or have a blowout (see pages 138-140.) If you have an accident at higher speeds, you may be more badly hurt.

Maximum and Minimum Speed Limits

In Illinois there are both maximum and minimum speed limits.

The maximum speed limit is the fastest you can go. If you go faster, you will be breaking the law; you might get a ticket. But the maximum speed limit is only for perfect driving conditions. If the conditions are not perfect, you must slow down. (Slow down for bad roads. Slow down for bad weather. Slow down in heavy traffic.) No matter what speed is posted, you must not drive so fast that you cannot control your car. You must use common sense and must not drive so fast that you endanger people or things.

The minimum speed is the slowest you can go. You will see minimum speed limit signs on interstates and other busy highways. They are there to keep traffic moving smoothly. If cars go at very different speeds on these roads, there is more of a chance for an accident. The signs make sure cars will go about the same speed. Minimum speeds, like maximum speeds, are only for good driving conditions. If conditions are not good, you do not have to drive as fast as the signs say. But if conditions are good, you must go the minimum speed. If you don't, you may get a ticket. Even if you don't see a minimum speed sign, you may get a ticket for going too slowly if you block traffic.

Here are the legal (lawful) speed limits: (m.p.h.=miles per hour)

Rural (country) areas	55 m.p.h. (unless you see another sign)
	50 m.p.h. (trucks over 4 tons or 8,000 pounds)
Urban (city) areas	30 m.p.h. (unless you see another sign)
School zones	20 m.p.h. (at times when children are around)
In alleys	15 m.p.h.

But there are other times when you must slow down to be safe. Slow down when you:

1. Approach or cross an intersection.
2. Approach and go around a curve.
3. Approach the top of a hill.
4. Are on a winding or narrow road.
5. Think there are dangers because of pedestrians, traffic, weather, or the road.
6. Must stop to avoid an accident.

What is the safest speed for a driver?

The safest speed for a driver is the average speed at which other traffic is moving. Very slow drivers may get in just as many accidents as drivers who are driving very fast. So if most of the drivers are going between 50 and 55, you should go between 50 and 55. You will probably be more safe if you do. If most of the drivers are going between 25 and 30, you should, too. Of course, you must not drive faster than the speed limit even if other drivers do so.

Following Distance

Many accidents are caused because drivers don't allow enough following distance. Following distance is the distance between your car and the car in front of you.

Do not get too close to the car in front of you. Always leave room for an emergency stop. Leave more room if the weather is bad or the road is slippery. Most rear-end collisions (accidents) happen when one driver follows another driver too closely. How do you know how much following distance to allow? Here are 2 rules that might help you:

(1) You can allow one car length for each ten miles per hour that you are driving. So if you are driving 10 m.p.h., allow one car length between you and the car in front of you. If you are going 30 m.p.h., allow 3 car lengths, etc. But this rule is only for good weather when you can see very well and the roads are dry (see page 117).

(2) A rule that is easier to use is the 2-second rule. Stay 2 seconds behind the car in front of you. The 2-second rule works like this: Watch the rear of the vehicle ahead of you when it passes something on the highway. Watch it pass a telephone pole or a traffic sign or a mailbox, or anything which does not move. When the rear of the vehicle passes that thing, start to count. Count, "One-thousand-one, one-thousand-two." If you reach that mark before you finish counting, you are following too closely (see pg. 117). If you follow this 2-second rule you will know the proper following distance no matter what your speed is. But this rule, like the first rule, is only for good driving conditions. If conditions are not good, count 4 or 5 seconds instead of 2 seconds.

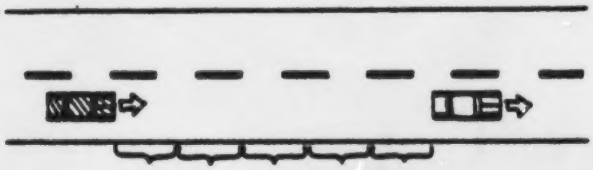
Trucks, buses, and vehicles pulling trailers must be very careful about following distance. If they are outside a business or residential area, they must stay far enough behind other vehicles to allow an overtaking vehicle to fit between them.

FOLLOWING DISTANCE--Use 1 of these 2 rules:

1. Allow one car length for every 10 m.p.h. you are driving.

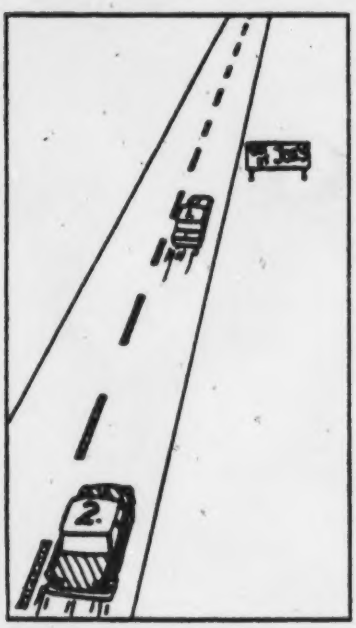
Example:

If you are going 30 m.p.h., allow 3 car lengths between you and the car ahead of you.

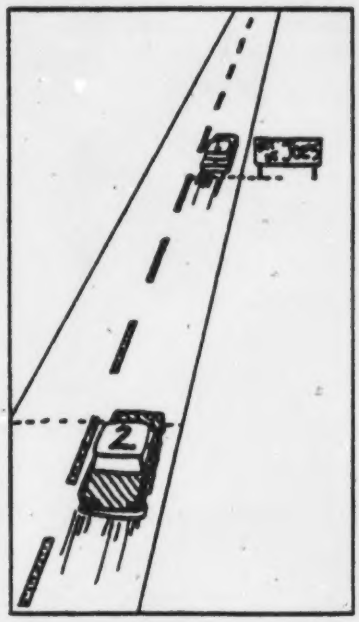


If you are going 50 m.p.h., allow 5 car lengths between you and the car ahead of you.

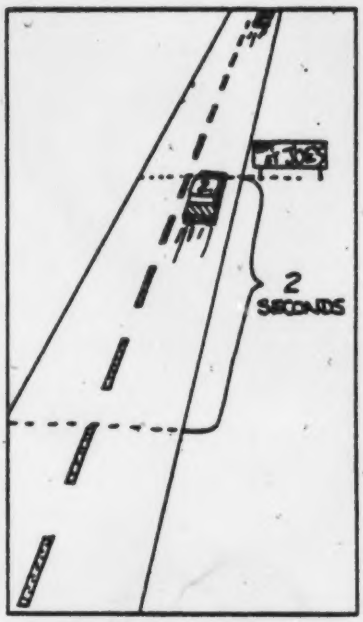
2. For the 2-second rule, stay 2 seconds behind the car in front of you.



Watch the car ahead of you approach a fixed object on the road.



When the rear of the car passes the object, start counting, "One-thousand-one, one-thousand-two." The count takes about two seconds.



It should take at least 2 seconds for you to reach the object. If the front of your car reaches the object before you finish counting, you are following too closely.

Caravans or motorcades are groups of vehicles traveling together. Other vehicles may be going in the same direction as the caravan or motorcade. The vehicles in the caravan or motorcade must leave enough space between each vehicle so that other vehicles can safely fit into the spaces. (This does not apply to funeral vehicles, however.)

Stopping Distance

You should know the distance it will take you to stop at different speeds. This is called the stopping distance. It takes longer to stop than you think. For example, at 30 m.p.h., it takes about 69-78 feet to stop. At 50 m.p.h., it takes you about 160-186 feet!

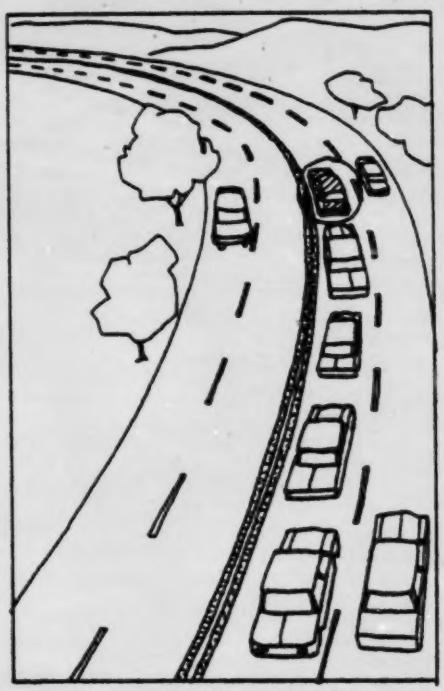
Stopping distance depends on these things:

1. The time it takes a driver to see and do something about a dangerous situation (reaction time).
2. The kind of pavement or road. (It will take you longer to stop on wet, slippery roads.)
3. The kind of tires you have and how badly they are worn.
4. The way your car is built and how heavy it is.
5. The kind of brakes your car has and how good they are.
6. The way the wind is blowing and how fast it is blowing.

There are many things to consider when judging stopping distance. The only way you can find out how quickly you can stop your car is to try to stop it at different speeds under different conditions. Find a safe place to try it out. Be careful and take it easy.

Slower Traffic

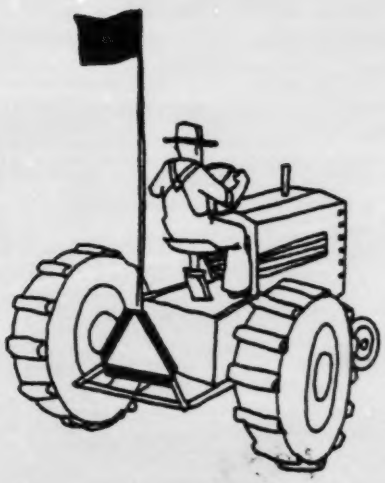
Some vehicles move more slowly than the average speed of the traffic around them. When there are two or more lanes for vehicles going the same way, these slower vehicles must stay in the right lane. They may only move into the left lane to pass or turn left.



Slower vehicles should use the right lane.

Slower-Moving Vehicles

Slow down when you see this red and orange sign on a vehicle in front of you! It means that the vehicle ahead of you is a "slow-moving vehicle." It is moving less than 25 m.p.h.



You will see this sign on vehicles that are pulled by animals. You will also see it on tractors and farm machinery. Some slow-moving vehicles may have to have other things to warn you, like red flags or flashing amber (yellow-orange) lights.

OTHER TRAFFIC RULES

1. Don't weave. Drivers who weave (move from one lane to another to move faster than the flow of traffic) might cause accidents. You should stay within a single lane as much as possible. Change lanes only when it is safe to do so.

2. Don't drive the wrong way on a one-way street or highway. Only police or emergency vehicles can do so.

3. Don't drive across the median strip (dividing section, barrier, or unpaved strip) which separates two roadways unless you are at an authorized opening or crossover.

4. Don't back up on any street or highway unless it can be done safely and without blocking traffic. Never back up on an expressway!

5. Don't drive on or across a sidewalk unless you are entering or leaving a driveway, making a pickup or delivery, or giving repair or emergency service.

6. Don't enter an intersection, marked crosswalk, or railroad crossing unless you will have enough space for your vehicle on the other side. You must not block the way of other vehicles, pedestrians, or railroad trains.

7. Don't open the door on the driver's side unless it is safe to do so and it will not block traffic. Leave the door open only long enough to load or unload passengers.

8. Don't flash your turn signals as a "do-pass" signal to drivers behind you.

9. Don't ride in a house trailer while it is being moved upon a street or highway.

10. Don't push another vehicle outside an urban (city) area unless there is an emergency. If there is an emergency, just push it off the roadway or out of danger.

11. Don't overload your vehicle with people or things. If you do, the driver may not be able to see or may not have enough room to drive the car properly. Passengers (riders) must not ride in such a way that they keep the driver from seeing or from properly controlling the car.

SPECIAL STOPS

Railroad Crossings

Signs, lights, and pavement markings all warn you to be careful at railroad crossings. Remember that the round yellow warning sign, which is 500-900 feet before a railroad crossing, tells you that you are approaching railroad tracks. And remember that the no-passing line on your side of the center line tells you not to pass another car within 100 feet of the railroad crossing. Watch for a stop line which may be at some railroad crossings. It will show you where to stop. Sometimes there is even a stop sign at crossings. Just before the crossing there will be railroad crossbucks, flashing red lights, and sometimes crossing gates. If there is more than one track, you may see a sign that tells how many tracks there are. (See page 123).

When you come to a railroad crossing, you should slow down, look, and listen because you may have to stop. Sometimes the wind is strong or there are other noises outside. You may have to roll down your window so you can hear the train. When you do stop, stop within 50 to 15 feet of the nearest rail. (You must be at least 15 feet away from the rails. But you must not be more than 50 feet away.)

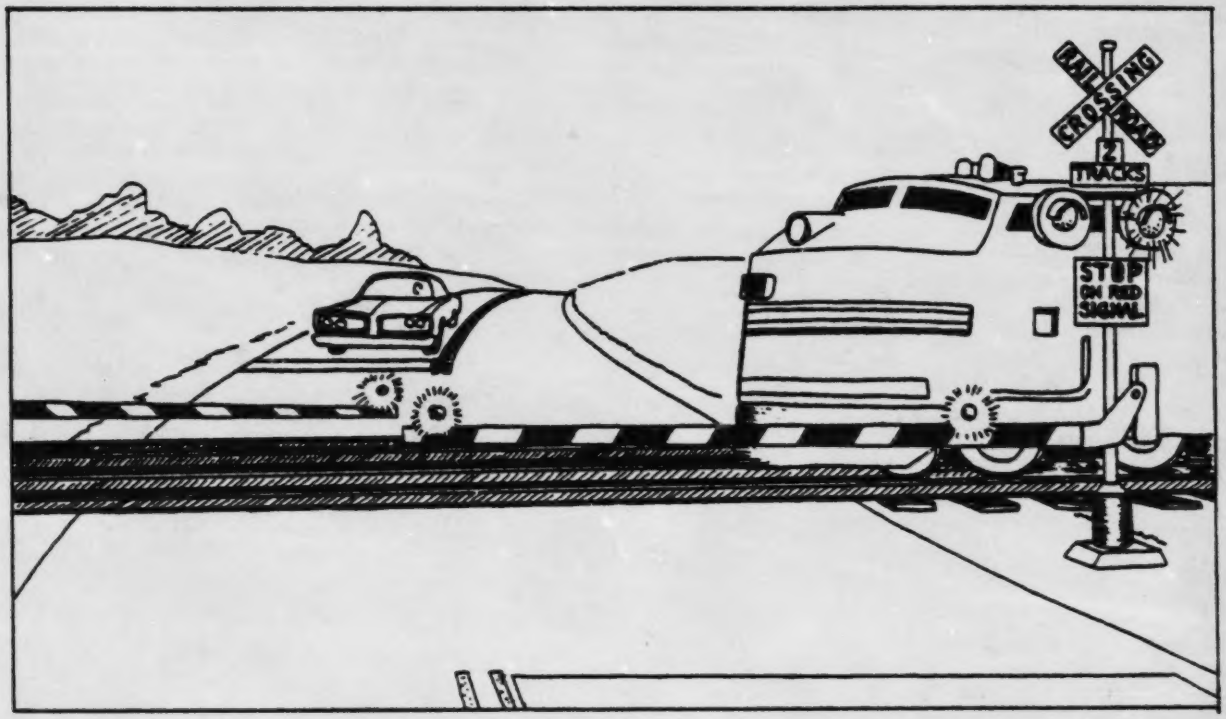
You must stop whenever:

1. Red signal lights are flashing.
2. The gates are down.
3. A flagman is giving a signal.
4. A train is approaching (coming up fast).
5. The train is giving a warning signal, or
6. A stop sign is posted.

Don't ever try to beat the train across! Stay where you are until the tracks are clear and it is safe.

Here are some safety tips for railroad crossings:

1. Be ready for a train at all times.
2. Never get trapped on the tracks. Don't let traffic ahead of you and behind you box you in on the track. Wait on your side of the crossing until you are sure you can clear the crossing. If your car stalls on the tracks, get everyone out of the car. Get them and yourself to safety.
3. Watch for a second train. If one train is passing you, you may not be able to see that a second train is also going by on another track at the crossing. After the first train passes, wait until you are sure that another train is not coming from the opposite direction.
4. Never shift gears on the crossing.
5. If you start across a track and then the red lights start to flash, keep going across. Don't worry. You will have enough time to get across before the train comes,
6. Watch for those buses and trucks that must stop at railroad crossings.
7. Remember that it is hard to guess how fast a train is going.



School Buses

It is very important for you to know what to do when you come up behind or meet a school bus that has stopped to load or unload children. The bus driver will warn you that the bus is going to stop soon. The driver will turn on flashing red and amber lights 100 to 200 feet before the bus stops. The lights will flash on both the front and rear of the bus. The driver may also operate a signal arm that says STOP. The signal arm will swing out from the driver's side of the bus.

You must always stop if you are in back of a school bus that has stopped to load or unload children. If there is more than one lane of traffic going the same way as the bus, traffic in both lanes must stop behind the bus. If you meet a school bus (coming from the other way) which has stopped to load or unload children, you must stop, too. The only time you do not have to stop when you meet a school bus is when the road is divided by a median strip. (See pictures on pages 100 and 101).

You must not go until (1) the flashing signal lights on the bus go off and the signal arm is pulled back in, (2) the bus starts going, or (3) the driver signals you to go.

On some controlled-access roads there will be a loading zone for school buses. (A controlled-access highway is a high speed road where drivers can only get on and off at certain places.) Drivers do not have to stop for buses in loading zones. But these loading zones must be at places where pedestrians are not allowed to cross the highway.

Suppose you are not on a divided highway, and you pass a stopped school bus that is loading or unloading children. What will happen if you are convicted? You will have your license taken away for 30 days, and you will not be able to drive at all. This is a new law in Illinois.

STOPPING, STANDING, OR PARKING

There are also traffic laws that control how you stop your car, stand or wait in your car, and park your car.

When you stop or slow down suddenly, you must flash your rear brake lights to warn drivers who are following you closely. If you do not flash your brake lights, you must give the proper hand and arm signal (left hand and arm downward).

Don't stop, stand, or park any vehicle on the roadway if you can park off the road. If you can't, park where you have a clear view 200 feet in each direction and where other vehicles can pass. Don't stop on a hill or curve.

There are some places where stopping, standing, or parking is prohibited, unless you are avoiding other traffic or obeying the law, a police officer, or a traffic control sign or signal. It is prohibited:

1. On the street side of a parked vehicle.
2. On a sidewalk or crosswalk.
3. Within an intersection.
4. Between a safety zone and a curb.
5. Beside any places where there is street construction or an obstruction, if doing so would block traffic.
6. On a bridge or overpass.
7. In a tunnel, underpass, or subway.
8. At any place where there is a no-parking sign.
9. On any controlled-access highway.
10. In the area between the two sides of a divided highway, including crossover places.

Standing or parking, whether the driver is in the vehicle or not, is prohibited in the following places (except to pick up or drop off riders):

1. In front of a driveway.
2. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
3. Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.
4. Within 30 feet of a stop or yield sign or signal light.
5. At any place where there is a no-parking sign.

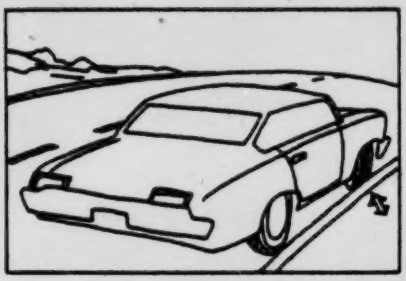
Parking, whether the driver is in the vehicle or not, is prohibited in the following places (except to quickly load or unload riders or cargo):

1. Within 50 feet of the nearest railroad crossing.
2. At any place where a sign says "no parking."

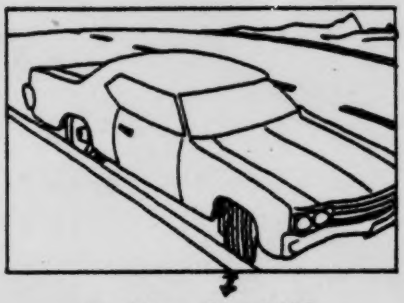
In most parking lots and on some streets, you should be able to park at an angle. Yellow lines will show you how big your space is.

But on many 2-way and 1-way streets you must park next to the curb, sometimes between two parked cars. This is called parallel parking. On a 2-way street you must park within 12 inches of the curb. Park next to the curb on the same side you are driving. Your front and back wheels should both be within 12 inches of the curb. Park in the center of the marked space. Allow plenty of room ahead of your car and behind your car (at least 2 feet is a good idea). On a 1-way street park near either curb. But park within 12 inches of the curb.

If you park on a street with a curb, and you are heading downhill, turn your front wheels toward the curb. If you are heading uphill, turn your front wheels away from the curb. If there is no curb, turn your wheels toward the side of the road for either downhill or uphill parking. Always put on the parking brakes. Put the car in "park."



Parking Uphill



Parking Downhill

Whenever you park your car, set the brake, lock the ignition, and take your keys with you. Don't leave them in the car.

Police officers will watch for any vehicles without drivers which are not legally parked and which block traffic on any highway, bridge, or tunnel. The police may take these vehicles to safety. The vehicles will be towed, and the owners must pay for this towing. Also, abandoned (deserted) and disabled (won't run) vehicles may be towed if they block traffic.

Between sunset and sunup, the driver of a parked vehicle needs to turn on both front and rear lights. (S)he needs the lights unless the vehicle is in an urban area where these lights are not required. The driver must dim the headlights.

If a vehicle is parked or is having car trouble, the driver must not flash one turn signal. The "Hazard" indicator, which flashes both turn signals, may be used to warn other drivers of danger.

A handicapped driver in a vehicle which has special registration (license) plates does not have to follow any time limits for parking in a business district. But the handicapped driver must follow all other parking, standing, and stopping laws.

EXPRESSWAY DRIVING

Expressways are multilane highways. Some are also called tollways, turnpikes, or freeways. Most multilane highways are free, but you must pay when you drive on tollways.

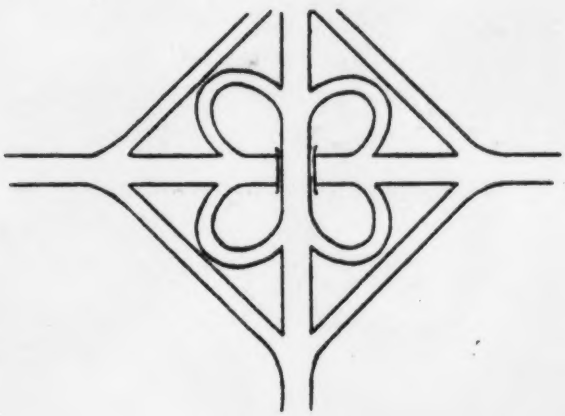
Expressways are different from other roads. Traffic on expressways moves very fast. You can only get on and off an expressway at special entrances and exits. That's why expressways are called limited-access roadways. Traffic that is crossing an expressway is completely separated from the traffic on the expressway by interchanges. An interchange is an intersection which lets you get on and off expressways or change from one expressway to another road (see the next page). Also, traffic that is going in one direction is completely separated from traffic going the opposite way by medians. Lanes on expressways are wide, and the shoulder of the roadway is paved. You are able to see quite far ahead on expressways. Pedestrians, bicycle riders, and some vehicles may be prohibited from using expressways if there is a sign posted that says so.

Expressways have many advantages over other roads if you know how to use them. You will be able to get where you want to go sooner, more easily, and more safely. But you will have to think faster and handle your car better because of the higher speeds on expressways.

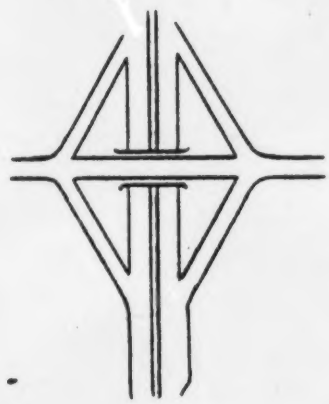
Here are some tips for expressway driving:

Plan your trip carefully. Mark your map to show all entrances, exits, service areas, and rest stops you plan to use. Remember that service areas are roadside places with entrance and exit ramps. You can stop to get gas, food, and other services. Rest stops are places for travelers to nap, have a picnic, rest, or study the map. If you plan ahead, your trip will probably be more enjoyable.

You must learn how to use an interchange to do expressway driving. There are several kinds of interchanges for getting on and off expressways and changing roads. The cloverleaf is the most common. You'll also find the partial-cloverleaf, the diamond, and trumpet interchanges. On most interchanges you will enter and exit from the far right lane. Sometimes you will enter or exit from the far left lane.



CLOVERLEAF

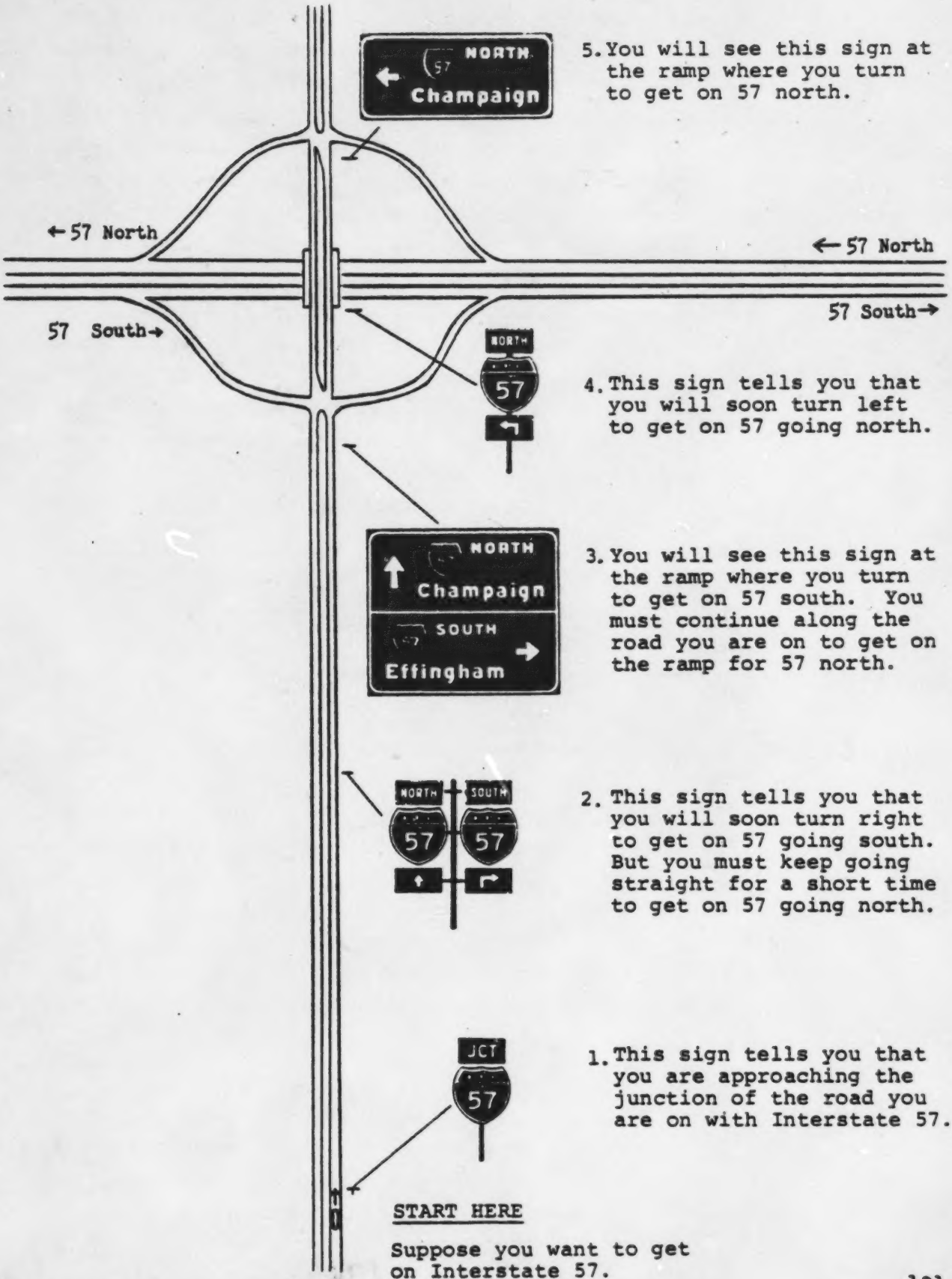


DIAMOND

TRUMPET

Getting On Expressways

You must enter an expressway only at authorized places. You will see guide signs telling you how to get on expressways. Look at the next page. There is a sample pattern of signs like those you might see as you get on an expressway. Start at the bottom and read up.



5. You will see this sign at the ramp where you turn to get on 57 north.

4. This sign tells you that you will soon turn left to get on 57 going north.

3. You will see this sign at the ramp where you turn to get on 57 south. You must continue along the road you are on to get on the ramp for 57 north.

2. This sign tells you that you will soon turn right to get on 57 going south. But you must keep going straight for a short time to get on 57 going north.

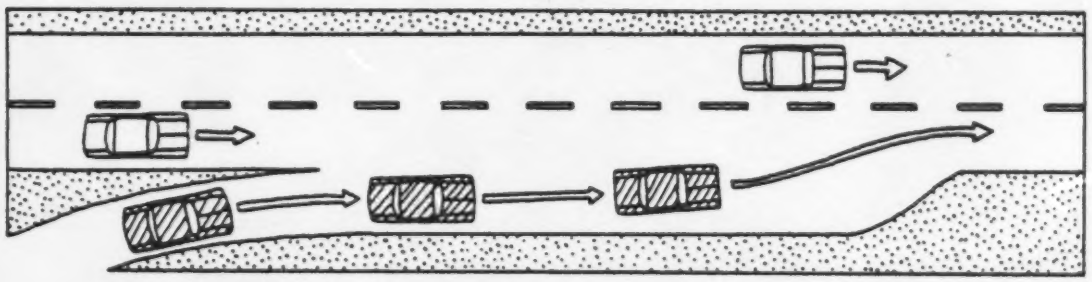
1. This sign tells you that you are approaching the junction of the road you are on with Interstate 57.

START HERE

Suppose you want to get on Interstate 57.

You will enter an expressway on an entrance ramp. A ramp is a short 1-way road which allows safe, easy entrance onto a freeway. Many ramps are curves, so you must go more slowly on them. You will sometimes see speed limit signs on the ramp that tell you how fast you can go. Sometimes there will be a speed change lane. A speed change lane gives you time and room to gain enough speed to match the speed of the vehicles already on the expressway.

You will see a merge sign just before the entrance to the highway. Remember, you must use good sense and good timing to merge smoothly and safely onto the expressway. Turn on your turn signal. Look for an opening in the traffic. Speed up to match the speed of the traffic on the expressway. Merge in when it is safe. Don't come to a full stop unless you must do so to avoid an accident or to obey the law. Both you and the drivers already on the expressway must adjust your speeds to avoid an accident.



Once you are on the expressway, drive alertly. Use your mirrors. Check the traffic behind you constantly. Look in the mirrors before you change lanes. Turn on your turn signals when you change lanes. Stay out of another driver's blind spot. In other words, don't drive where the driver in front of you can't see you in his rearview or side mirrors. It's dangerous, because that driver could pull out in front of you to pass. Either stay far enough behind him/her, or pass.

Be careful when you pass. Check your left lane before pulling out to pass. Don't get back in the right-hand lane too soon--it's one of the causes of many accidents. Don't get back in until you can see the car you just passed in your rearview mirror.

Don't follow too closely. Double or triple your following distance if the weather is bad or the road is slippery. Most accidents on expressways are rear-end collisions!

Use the right-hand lane, if you are moving more slowly than the other traffic. The left lane is for passing.

Beware of fatigue (getting very tired) and highway hypnosis. They are very dangerous. If you are tired, don't drive. Get some rest before you start.

If you start to feel sleepy when you are driving, don't try to fight it. Pull off and stop at the next rest stop or service area. Have a cup of coffee. Stretch your legs. When you are back on the road, open the window, play the radio, sing, or chew gum. If you are really very tired, get off the roadway, roll down the window a little, and take a nap (maybe 30 minutes). Or stop for a night's rest. Don't take wake-up drugs. They may make driving more dangerous.

If fatigue is unusual for you, check your car for a leak in the exhaust.

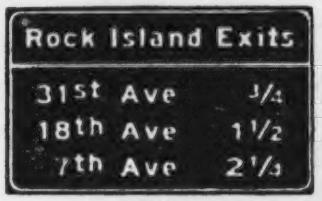
Sometimes on a long trip, you may start to feel hypnotized. You feel sleepy and can't pay attention to the road. You may feel like you are standing still and the road is moving under you. The sound of the wind and tires on the road, the hum of the engine, and the boredom of a long ride or scenery do this to you. To wake up, shift your eyes from place to place. Shift them to the left and right, up and down, near and far. Read the highway signs. This will probably help.

Don't stop on the expressway. Stop at the many rest stops and service areas. The only time you should stop on the shoulder of the road is in an emergency, or if your car won't go farther. If you must stop, put up the hood of your car. Turn on your flasher lights. Don't walk along the expressway to look for help! Stay in the car and wait for a police officer to come by.

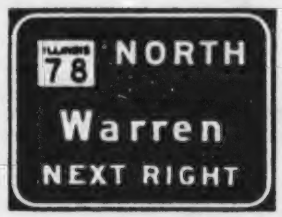
Let guide signs direct you where you want to go.

Signs like these tell you how far it is to certain cities.

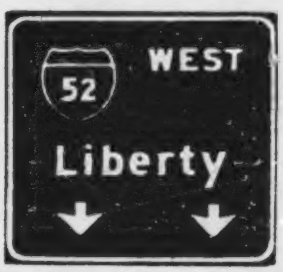
Signs like these tell you how far you are from exits that are coming up.



You will see signs like these just before and at the exits.



If you don't want to exit, watch for through traffic signs. You will sometimes see them.

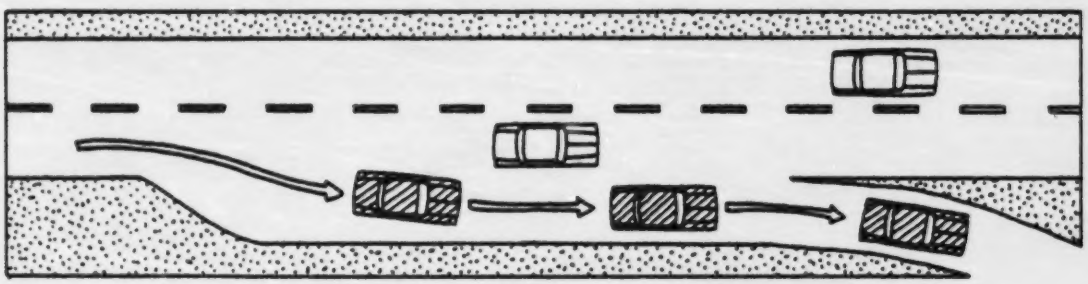


(See pages 62, 63, and 65 for signs that tell about exits and rest areas.)

Getting Off Expressways

When you are ready to exit, move into the right hand lane well ahead of the exit if the exit is on the right side of the expressway. If the exit is on the left side of the expressway, move into the left lane early.

When you are very close to the exit you want, move into the speed change lane if there is one. It will give you time and room to slow down. Don't slow down on the expressway itself.



If there isn't any speed change lane, you must slow down before the exit on the expressway.

Slow down even more on the ramp. Ramp speeds are sometimes posted. They are usually very slow because of the way expressways are built.

If you miss your exit, keep going and get off at the next exit. Never back up on the roadway or shoulder of a controlled-access highway!

Once you are off the expressway and back on regular streets or highways, watch your speed carefully. Do this until you are used to the slower speeds once again.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Even when you know the traffic laws, there are some times when the traffic laws you have learned will not tell you what to do. You will need to know some safety rules for driving under the following special conditions.

Before reading about these special conditions, remember this --- always wear your safety belts! It is best to wear lap and shoulder belts together. But don't wear the shoulder belt without the lap belt. (Pull the lap belt over your hip bones, not over your stomach. Pull the shoulder belt tight, but not so tight that you cannot reach the car's controls. If you can put your fist between the belt and your body, the belt is just right.) Safety belts help keep you safer. In an emergency they keep you in your car so you can keep control of your car. They keep you from being hurt because you will not be thrown out of the car. And they keep you from hitting dangerous things in your car.)

Night Driving

Driving at night is harder than driving during the day. It is harder to see. Things look different at night. You may have trouble with other cars' headlights; they may blind you if they are too bright.

You should remember these things about lights when you are driving at night:

1. You must drive with your lights on between sundown and sunup. And there are other times when you should turn on your lights, also.
2. Use your headlights. It's against the law to drive with only your parking lights on.

3. If the road is very dark, you may want to drive with your bright lights on instead of your regular lights. But if you come up behind another car, dim (turn down) your bright lights. Put on your regular lights when you are 300 feet behind the car in front of you. If you meet another car, which is coming from the other direction, dim your bright lights 500 feet before you meet that other car. If a driver coming toward you doesn't dim his/her lights, you might look quickly at the edgeline or lane line. This will help you see the road despite the glare from the bright lights.
4. Make sure your own headlights are working well before you go out on the road. Don't overdrive your headlights --- drive slowly enough so you can see far enough ahead to stop in an emergency.

Here are some other things about night driving to keep in mind: Remember to keep your windows and headlights clean. Watch more carefully for highway signs, pedestrians, or vehicles that have stopped along the side of the road. These are all harder to see at night. Use the edgeline(s) and center line as guides so you won't go off the road. If you are driving at the speed limit, slow down when you meet another car or come to a curve. To stay awake, stop often, play the radio, or roll down the window. Don't stop on the road itself. Pull off the road if you must stop. And carry a red warning light in case you get stuck along the road somewhere. You can also put on both turn signals (flasher lights) if you get stuck.

Fog

If you do not have to drive when it is foggy, don't. But if you must drive, slow down. Slow down even more when you see the headlights or the taillights of other cars. The headlights you see may be on a car that is driving down the center of the road. The taillights may be on a car that has stopped on the road or a car that is moving very slowly. Be ready to stop at any time when you are driving in foggy weather. Use the edgeline(s) and center line as guides to staying on the road. If the fog gets

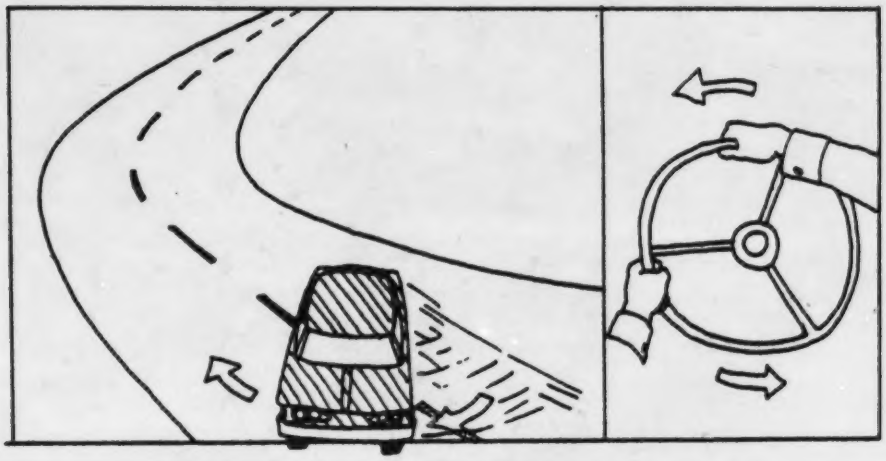
very bad, pull off the road until you can see better. It is better to pull off the road and wait than to drive along at 5 or 10 m.p.h. If you creep along like this, another car may hit you. You should dim your lights when you are driving in fog; don't use your brights. Some drivers even buy special fog lights for their cars.

Skidding

Your car can skid (slide) at almost any time. When you skid, your tires lose their grip on the road. There are many reasons why your car may skid. Your tires may not have enough tread. If the tread on your tires is not at least 1/16 inch deep, the tires are not safe. Or, you may be going too fast on a curve. You may skid when you turn too sharply or change lanes too quickly. You may be driving too fast over a bumpy or icy road. You may be driving too close to the edge of the road; your right wheel drops off the road and you skid. You may be following another car too closely or going too fast; when you try to stop quickly for an emergency, you skid.

So you skid when you slam on the brakes, when you step too hard and too fast on the gas, and when you go too fast for conditions.

No matter what causes you to skid, keep calm. To get control of your car, steer in the direction of the skid. This means you turn your steering wheel the same way that your back wheels are going, or the same way that the back end of your car is going. When you turn the steering wheel this way, your wheels will straighten out. You must also stop doing whatever you did that made you skid. If you skid because you slammed on the brakes, ease up on the brake. If you accelerated too quickly (stepped on the gas too hard and too quickly), ease up on the gas pedal. If you went too fast on a slippery road, take your foot off the gas. But the one thing you should always remember is--do not apply (step on) the brake!

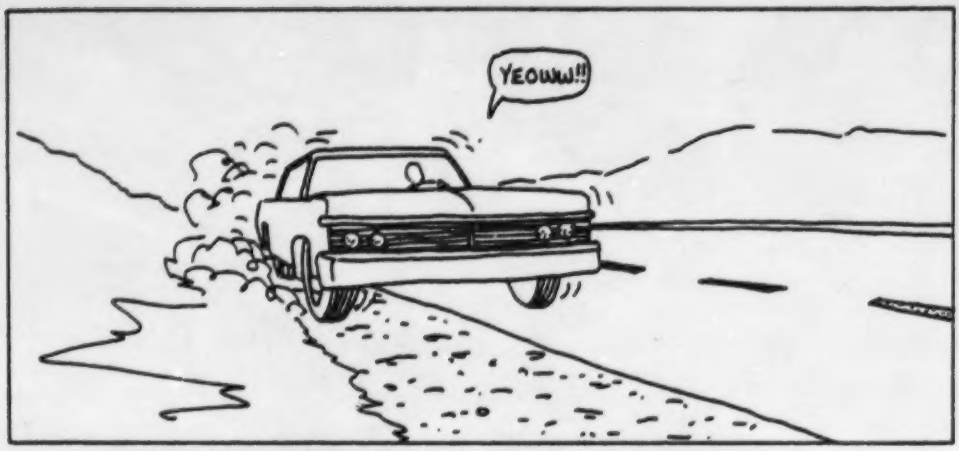


The back of the car is skidding to the left. Driver must turn the steering wheel in the direction of the skid (to the left).

Running Off the Pavement

If your car goes off the side of the road, you could have a very bad accident. You should always keep your mind on your driving so you won't go off the road. But if you do, you should remember these 4 things: They may save your life!

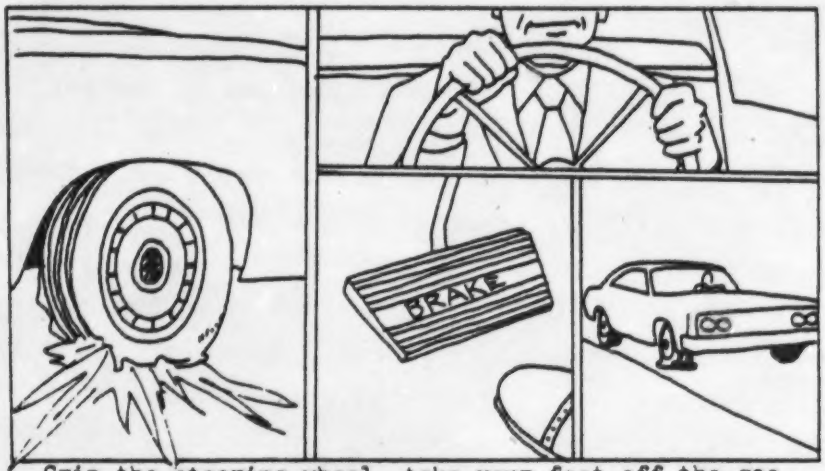
1. Don't panic. Grip (hold) your steering wheel tightly. Get ready for sudden jolts and shocks.
2. Take your foot off the gas pedal.
3. Don't hit your brakes suddenly and hard. Use your brakes carefully.
4. Don't try to get back on the road right away. Let your car slow down while you are still off the road. Don't go too fast or turn your steering wheel too sharply when you try to get back on the road. If you do, you might cross the center line or go off the other side of the road. So before you try to get back on the road, slow down and check to see that there is no traffic coming. Also, be careful when there is a sharp drop-off from the pavement to the side of the road.



Grip the steering wheel and let your car slow down before you try to get back on the road.

Blowouts

Sometimes you may be driving along, and suddenly a tire blows out or goes flat. If you know what to do, you will be able to keep your car under control. And you will be able to bring it to a safe stop. If a front tire goes flat, your car will pull to the side of the flat tire. If a back tire goes flat, your car will probably move from side to side (fishtail). Don't step on your brake. Hold onto the steering wheel tightly. Take your foot off the gas pedal and slow down. Let the car slow down by itself. Slowly pull off onto the shoulder of the road. Let the car limp to a safe, level place. It is better to buy a new tire than to get hit because you stop in a place that is not safe. Warn other drivers. Put out a red flare or put on your flashers.



Grip the steering wheel, take your foot off the gas, and let the car slow down. Then pull off the road.

Winter Driving

You can make winter driving much safer if you follow these tips:

1. Get your car ready for winter driving and keep it in good shape. Check your battery, brakes, windshield wipers, defroster, radiator, and lights. Put anti-freeze solvent in your window washing liquid. Buy snow tires or chains for your vehicle. Make sure your muffler is working right. If there are leaks in your exhaust system, a poisonous gas (carbon monoxide) may get into your car and kill you.
2. Make sure you can see. Keep all your windows clean and clear of all snow and ice. Don't be a peephole driver. If it is snowing very hard, you should put on your lights. You may have to stop once in a while to clear off your windows and lights if the snow or ice sticks to them.
3. Watch for danger spots ahead. Bridges and turns and shady spots may be very dangerous in bad weather.
4. Slow down.
5. Get ready for stops. Give yourself plenty of time and room to stop. Start slowing down way before you come to an intersection, turn, or curve. Slow down a little at a time, pumping the brakes. Never slam on the brakes.
6. Start out slowly when you first get out on the road. Get the feel of the roadway. See how slippery it is.
7. Keep farther behind vehicles that you are following.
8. Get ready for a blizzard. Put a shovel and a blanket and some candy bars in your car. If you get stuck, stay in your car. Run your engine for a while. Then turn it off. Then run it again for a while. This way you can keep warm longer. You won't use your gas up so fast. Keep one window open a crack because of the poison gas that may hurt you when you are in a closed car that isn't moving.

Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide is a poison gas that can get into the passenger's part of your car if you have a bad muffler or leaks in your exhaust system. You can prevent this by having your muffler and exhaust system checked every so often. (This is most important just before winter.) Also, don't start your engine, run your engine while you are parked, or drive with all the windows tightly closed. Don't start or warm up your engine in a closed garage.

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but there are many signs of carbon monoxide poison. If you feel tired, dizzy, or sick to your stomach, watch out! If you have a headache or you feel a ringing in your ears, watch out! If you think some of the gas may have gotten into your car, you must stop the engine and get lots of fresh air right away.

Curves

Curves can be dangerous if the road is slippery. The best way to take a curve is to slow down before you enter it. Sharper curves will be marked with a speed sign. The sign will tell you how fast you can go on the curve and still be safe in good weather. Remember, when the road is wet or icy, you will have to go slower than the speed shown on the sign.

On curves to the right, keep to the right edge of the road. On left curves, stay in the middle of your lane. Don't drive over the center line. If you find that you have entered a curve too quickly, don't jam on the brakes. When you jam on the brakes, your brakes may lock. Then you may skid off the road.

Driving in the Rain and Hydroplaning

Roads are very slippery the first ten to fifteen minutes after it starts to rain. They get slippery when the oil and dust and dirt on the road mix with the rainwater. After a while this mixture will usually be washed away. So be most careful just after it starts raining.

Lots of water on the road can also be very dangerous. A driver who is going fast may be in trouble if (s)he does not have the right amount of air in his/her tires or if (s)he is driving on badly-worn tires. The driver's car may start to ride on the top of a film of water that forms between the tires and the road. This is called hydroplaning. Hydroplaning usually begins when the car is going 35 m.p.h. It gets worse as the car goes faster. Then at high speeds anything can cause the driver to skid.

You can prevent hydroplaning if you:

1. Keep your tires filled with the right amount of air.
2. Don't let the tires get too badly worn.
3. Slow down during rainstorms or when roads are slushy.
4. Slow down if there is a lot of water on the road.

If your car does start to ride on the water, take your foot off the gas. Let the car slow down.

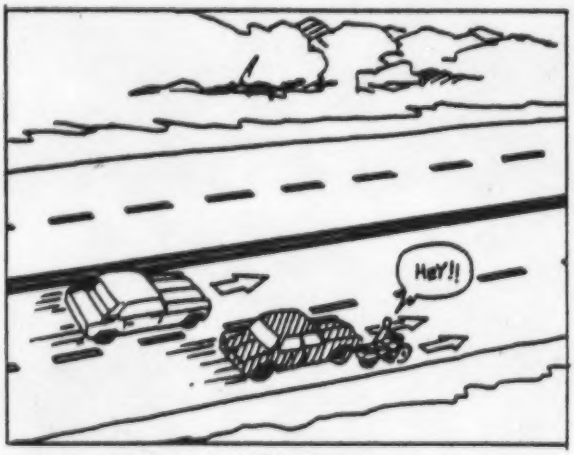
YOU AND THE MOTORCYCLIST

There are more and more motorcycles on the road every year. When you are on the road with them, you, the driver, must keep several safety rules in mind. First, remember that the motorcycle rider (motorcyclist) has the same right-of-way privileges (things you can do) as you have. Show him/her the same courtesy you would expect from other drivers. There are many more dangerous situations for motorcyclists than there are for drivers. You must learn what these dangerous situations are. Half the accidents between cars and motorcycles are caused by the driver of the car.

Share the Road

Motorcycles are smaller than other vehicles. But they need just as much space as other vehicles. Don't crowd a motorcyclist. Don't try to stop next to him/her in the same lane. This may force the motorcyclist off the road. Stay behind the motorcyclist or change lanes.

Never try to pass a motorcycle in the same lane it's in. Get into the other lane to pass as you would to pass a car. Watch that the wind from your car doesn't tip the motorcycle over.



Never crowd motorcycles!
Let them have a full lane.

Re-train Your Eyes

Many accidents happen because a driver can't see a motorcyclist. A motorcycle may be hidden in a driver's blindspot. When you change lanes, it isn't enough to check your rearview mirror and side mirror. You should glance back.

Watch for a cyclist on the outer edge of your traffic lane, especially on turns. Many times a motorcycle may be hidden by another car.

When you are waiting in an intersection to make a left turn, watch carefully for approaching motorcycles. They are hard to see.

Judging Distance

Motorcycles may seem farther away because they are smaller. Or they may seem to be moving more slowly than they are.

Allow more following distance than you would if you were following a car. Motorcyclists can stop more quickly because their vehicles weigh less than a car. If a cyclist stops and you are following too closely, you may hit the cyclist. Also, you may make the motorcyclist nervous if you follow too closely.

Watch for Dangers Motorcyclists Face

There are several dangerous spots where motorcyclists are more likely to tip over. You must allow more following distance at these spots. A motorcyclist may have trouble driving on sand or gravel or wet leaves. (S)he may have trouble in bad weather. There may be water or ice or snow on the road. Some bridges may be bad for the motorcyclist. And railroad crossings are especially dangerous for the cyclist. If the crossing is rough, the cyclist will need more room to cross the tracks at an angle.

YOU AND THE BICYCLE RIDER

Bicycles are not toys. The bicycle rider (bicyclist) must obey all traffic laws. But you must watch out for bicycle riders anyway. Watch out because they move slowly, and they can be badly hurt or even killed if they are hit by a car or other vehicle.

Be careful when you are passing a bicycle rider. Give him/her plenty of room. Be ready for a quick stop. Remember, it's hard to see bicycles, especially at night. Watch for bicycle riders at the side of the road or in the intersection.

If you want to turn and a cyclist is between you and the side of the road, watch out for him/her. Make sure the cyclist knows you want to turn. (S)he must slow down to let you turn or speed up to get out of your way.

YOU AND THE MOPED RIDER

A person can now legally operate a moped in Illinois. A moped is a motorized pedalcycle. It can be pedaled like a bicycle or driven like a motorcycle. The motor on a moped cannot be bigger than 50 cubic centimeters. It cannot produce more than 2 brake horsepower. A moped cannot go faster than 30 m.p.h. on level ground.

A moped driver must have a license. But it can be of any classification. The owner must have a title and license plates. A moped driver cannot carry a passenger unless the moped is made for that. Drivers must find out about equipment they need.

Like motorcyclists and bicyclists, moped drivers must obey all signs, signals, and traffic laws. Most bicycle laws apply to mopeds. But some bicycle laws don't apply because of the nature of mopeds. You as the driver must watch out for moped riders as well as for motorcyclists and bicyclists.

ACCIDENTS AND HOW TO PREVENT THEM

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

To drive defensively means that you drive in such a way as to prevent accidents in spite of poor driving conditions or the actions of other drivers. Defensive driving is very important to you because it greatly cuts down your chances of having an accident.

Here is a formula for defensive driving:

1. See the hazard or possible danger. Constantly watch for possible dangers ahead. Think about what is going to happen or what might happen as far ahead of a situation you will run into as possible. Don't assume "everything will be all right." Never trust another driver to do what you think (s)he is going to do or what (s)he should do. If you are waiting for a red light and the driver in front of you puts on his/her left turn signal, the left turn signal does not always mean the driver is going to turn left. (S)he may not turn or (s)he may even turn right. While you are waiting for the light, think what you could do if this happened.

2. Understand the defense. Think constantly of possible escape routes for any emergency that might come up. After a while, you will get used to doing this. Then if you do have an emergency, you will have a plan. For example, if you are coming to a curve or hill or bridge, check the shoulder of the road and the nearby area to see what you would do if an approaching car were over the center line.

There are other special ways to handle certain dangerous situations. You should learn what they are so you can use them in an emergency. You can learn about them through defensive driving books or by taking a class in defensive driving.

3. Act in time. Once you have seen the danger or hazard and decided on a defense against it or what to do about it, act! Never take a "wait and see" attitude. But don't panic!

If you don't think you can avoid an accident, try to steer out of it. Do anything to keep from hitting a vehicle head on. If you have to hit a vehicle or something else, try to do so at a slant. Hitting someone or something head on is much worse and much more dangerous than hitting at a slant. If you have a choice, pick the softest thing to run into. A ditch may be softer than another vehicle. Sometimes you can avoid disaster by throwing your car into a skid.

Keep your vehicle in good shape. Emergencies put lots of stress on a vehicle. If your vehicle is running properly, you will have a better chance of surviving (living) if you have an accident.

*Drag Racing and Reckless Driving (* --See CAUTION on page 151)

Drag racing and reckless driving are two causes of accidents. Any person who is convicted (found guilty) of drag racing will have his/her driver's license revoked (taken away). Drag racing is when 2 or more people compete or race on any street or highway. One of the vehicles is beside or behind the other vehicle(s). One driver tries to keep the other driver(s) from passing or overtaking him/her by accelerating (speeding up) or some other maneuver (movement). Or one or more people compete in a race against time.

Reckless driving is driving with "willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property."

Any person who is convicted of reckless driving 3 times within a 12-month period will have his/her driver's license revoked. Revocation is mandatory (required by law).

*Medical Aspects of Driving, and Penalties (punishments) for Driving While Intoxicated

The driver's health and physical condition affect his/her ability to drive safely. Alcohol, drugs, illness or disability, and emotional disturbance may cause or add to the chance of accidents.

Alcohol and Drugs:

Studies tell us that more than half the drivers who are involved in accidents have been drinking. You should know that alcohol is a depressant, not a stimulant. It slows a person's normal reflexes, interferes with judgment, and cuts down alertness and ability to see or observe things. It does not matter what kind of alcohol the driver has had. It is the amount of alcohol that gets in the blood that is important. Alcohol can affect the driver differently at different times. If the driver has a small amount of alcohol without having food in his/her stomach, the alcohol will affect him/her more than if (s)he had more food there. Black coffee, cold showers, or food only wake the driver up. They don't sober him/her up. Only time can do that.

There are drugs that also interfere with a person's ability to drive. These may be prescription (given by a doctor) or non-prescription drugs. When the driver takes drugs given to him/her by a doctor, (s)he should ask the doctor about any side affects of the drug that may relate to driving.

Penalties:

Driving while intoxicated is prohibited! Any person who is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug which makes him/her unable to drive safely, must not drive any vehicle or be in physical control of any vehicle. "Under the influence of intoxicating liquor" means having 0.10% or more of alcohol by weight in the blood.

If a driver is convicted of driving while intoxicated, his/her license will be revoked. This is mandatory. Also, a driver convicted of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug which makes him/her incapable of safe driving is subject to fines of up to $1000 or sentences of up to one year in jail, or both. In place of a jail sentence, a court may order a driver to serve 2 days or more in a hospital or rehabilitation center.

Implied Consent Law:

The implied consent law was passed to help curb the very serious problem of drinking drivers. Implied Consent means that if a person drives a motor vehicle in Illinois, (s)he "thereby consents" to have his/her breath tested if (s)he is arrested for driving while intoxicated. Remember that the driver is considered to be under the influence of intoxicating liquor if (s)he has one tenth of one percent alcohol (0.10%) in his/her blood.

*CAUTION

*For a thorough discussion of the following subjects, you must see the Rules of the Road:

Drag Racing
Reckless Driving
Accidents
The Safety Responsibility Law
The Financial Responsibility Law
Alcohol
Drugs--kinds, effects of them, and dangers of some of them
Penalties for Intoxication
The Implied Consent Law--meaning of the law, the breath test, the driver's rights, refusal to take the breath test
License Suspension and Revocation
Motorcycles
Motorized Pedalcycles (Mopeds)
Trucks and Buses
License plates
Required equipment on your vehicle
Driver License Medical Advisory Board
Emergency Medical Information Card
Organ Donor Program

You must see the Rules of the Road because many of these subjects are open to legal arguments. Also, laws concerning them, as well as all other areas of driving, change from time to time. All drivers should make an effort to keep up with the latest laws enacted by the Illinois General Assembly. If you have any questions about driving in Illinois, especially the legal aspects of driving, you can call this toll-free number: 800-252-8980.

IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT

If you know and obey the traffic laws, and if you drive defensively, the chances are much less that you will have an accident. No one ever expects to be in an accident. But the fact is that accidents do happen. Sometimes even the safest drivers are involved in accidents.

Suppose you are a driver who has just had an accident. If you are badly hurt, you will have to get other people to help you. But if you can, you must do these things:

1. Stop right away in a safe place. You must not leave the scene of the accident! If you are convicted (found guilty) of leaving the scene of an accident where someone is hurt or killed, you may be sentenced to 30 days to 1 year in jail, and may be fined up to $1000. You will also have your driver's license revoked (taken away).

2. Send for help. Passengers, witnesses, or other people near the accident should aid you in getting help. It is a good idea to send more than one person for help, since one person may have to travel a long way or may have trouble getting to a phone. CB (Citizens Band) radio operators have one of the best and fastest ways to pass along information in emergencies!

If someone is seriously hurt, send for a doctor or ambulance, whichever will get there faster. The law says that you must report any accident to the police when someone is hurt or killed, or when property damage is more than $250. So report the accident to the nearest police station as soon as possible. If the accident happens outside a town or city, report it to the nearest office of the county sheriff or the Illinois State Police.

3. Help people who are hurt if they need help or ask you for it. Try to make them comfortable, and protect them from traffic. But do not try to give a victim first aid unless you know what to do! And do not move an injured person unless it is absolutely necessary for safety.

Sometimes accident victims do not seem to be hurt. But if they think there is any chance of an injury, they should be checked by a doctor right away to make sure.

4. Warn traffic. If the accident is obstructing the road, let drivers know of the hazard, but try to keep traffic away from the accident scene. This will prevent another accident and protect injured victims. Have someone go to a safe spot to warn approaching drivers. Or park a car 40-50 feet away from the accident and turn on the flashing (hazard) lights. Use flares if you have them. Until a police officer can take over, keep curious people out of the way. Try to keep a traffic lane open for police cars, ambulances, or tow trucks.

5. Stay at the scene of the accident until you have exchanged information with the people involved. No matter how little damage was done, you must give your name, address, registration (license plate) number, and driver's license number to the other people involved in the accident. You may also want to exchange information on insurance companies. As soon as possible, get the names and addresses of people who actually saw the accident. If police officers are at the scene, cooperate with them. As soon as you can, report the accident to your insurance company.

People are often angry and upset after accidents. It is not the time to settle who was at fault in the accident. Do not tell others they are to blame, and do not admit that you were at fault, even if you think you were. Do not sign any statements unless the police tell you to. Your insurance agent may not want you to talk about the accident. You exchange information with the other people so you can talk to each other later, after the accident, when you and the other people are more calm. The police officer who handles the accident will try to get the information needed to write a fair report. The officer may ticket one or more people in the accident. (S)he will explain what accident reports you must make.

6. Make a written report to the Illinois Department of Transportation if the accident results in death, injury, or property damage over $250. You must make this report as soon as possible, but not later than 10 days after the accident. The police officer or your insurance agent can give you the accident report form. These accident reports are kept confidential (secret). Many cities also say you must fill out accident reports. So if you are in an accident in a city, find out if you must fill out an accident report for that city.

Now suppose you get in an accident where some other car or property is damaged, but the owner or the driver isn't around. What do you do? You must stop right away in a safe place where you are not blocking traffic. Then you must try to find the owner or driver, and give him/her your name, address, license plate number, and driver's license number. If you can't find the owner or driver, write down this information and explain what happened. Attach the note to the damaged car or property where it can be seen easily. Finally, report the accident to the nearest police station. Fill out any necessary accident reports.

(For vital information on accidents, the Illinois Safety Responsibility Law, and the Illinois Financial Responsibility Law, you must refer to your Rules of the Road booklet. See the CAUTION on page 151.)

FURTHER ON DOWN THE ROAD

In the future, the U.S. will change to the metric system, which is used in most other countries. It is an easier system of measurement. The changeover from the system we now use (with miles, inches, gallons, m.p.h., etc.) will take time and be gradual. In fact, it has already started. For a while things you measure will be marked with both systems to help you learn the new system quickly and more easily. On the highway you may have already seen signs like the one below:

This green guide sign tells you how far it is to Chicago. It is 62 miles. In the metric system, driving distance is measured in kilometers. It is 100 kilometers to Chicago, according to the metric system.

There will be a number of other changes for you, the driver, to learn. You will measure your speed in kilometers per hour, instead of miles per hour. You will buy gasoline by the liter instead of by the gallon. And when you take your car in for repairs, the mechanic will use tools that measure in millimeters instead of fractions of an inch.

But no matter what measuring system you use, it is very important that you always follow the Rules of the Road and drive safely and defensively!